

Back view of Neelkantheshwar Temple, Udayapur

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)

GAZETTEER OF INDIA

MADHYA PRADESH



सत्यमेव जयते

VIDISHA

MADHYA PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



VIDISHA



P. N. SHRIVASTAV
&
Dr. RAJENDRA VERMA

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS DEPARTMENT
MADHYA PRADESH
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PREFACE

The present volume is the fifteenth in the series of the Madhya Pradesh District Gazetteers, being written under a scheme jointly sponsored by the Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The task of preparing the Gazetteer of Vidisha District was beset with difficulties. The District, as constituted today, comprises not only the Bhilsa District of the former Gwalior State and the small princely States of Kurwai, Muhammadgarh and Pathari, but also the Sironj Sub-division of the Kota District of Rajasthan and a small tract of the former Bhopal State. Being separate entities, they had different history and were governed through different set of rules. The Gwalior State Gazetteer, published in 1907, containing material on the entire Gwalior State, including parts of modern Vidisha District, was of little help in this work.

It was rather difficult to get facts and figures concerning the small princely States. The discernible reader will, we feel sure, realise, that the creation of an integrated picture regarding the various topics was, in these circumstances, a formidable task. The work was, however, rendered possible owing to the valuable help we received from the various Departments of Government as well as from the different institutions and individuals.

Vidisha has a hoary past, with a rich archaeology and history. The archaeological wealth scattered all over the District, speaks of the glory that was Vidisha. It has been referred to in the Epics, the Puranas and in the Buddhist, Jain and Brahmanical literature. The religious tolerance of the age is reflected here in the numerous Brahmanical, Buddhist and Jain remains, which coexisted. The Heliodoros Pillar or the Garuddhwaja at Besnagar, that was ancient Vidisha of the Sunga period, the Udayagiri caves of the Gupta period, the magnificent temples at Gyaraspur, Udayapur and Badoh symbolise the rich cultural heritage of this District.

It was a rich and prosperous trading centre in ancient period. The economic prosperity of this area was retained atleast till the days of the Imperial Guptas, for in his *Meghaduta*, Kalidasa has referred to Vidisha as a place where everybody gets wealth to his heart's content. This economic prosperity was due to its advantageous position on the cross-roads of two important trade routes. One of these connected Mathura with Pratisthan (modern Paithan on the Godavari) via Vidisha and another route, passing through this place, connected Pataliputra in the east with Bharukachchha (modern Broach), in the west.

This District is also closely associated with Emperor Asoka. It was at Vidisha that Asoka married Devi, a banker's daughter. Her son, Mahendra,

and daughter Sanghamitra, are famous in history as their father's religious ambassadors to Sri Lanka. They are known to have carried a twig of the original Bodhi tree and the Buddha's message of love, compassion and universal brotherhood to that country.

The draft of Vidisha District Gazetteer was finalised by the former State Editor, Shri P. N. Shrivastav in the year 1971-72. But before the chapters could be cyclostyled for being sent to the Government of India and the members of the State Advisory Board, Dr. Rajendra Verma was appointed State Editor. During the latter's tenure certain chapters were pruned. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things to publish this volume in the name of both the former State Editors. The draft was approved by the Government of India in February, 1973 and it was sent to press in the month of June, 1976.

The State Editor wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance received from the following officers in preparation of this volume. Assistant State Editors - Shri S. D. Guru and Dr. R. K. Jain; Editors - Sarvashri Vishnu Saran, M. M. Muley, P. K. Bhatnagar, R. R. Jain, R. K. Shrivastava and M. P. Dubey; Compilers - Shrimati Namita Sen and Sarvashri K. R. R. C. Nair, R. C. Munje, S. M. Rastogi, N. P. Pandey, R. K. Nayak, Vijay Jain, K. S. Sharma, A. M. Sharma and Nawal Kishore.

The State Editor expresses his gratitude to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Central Gazetteers Unit, for his suggestions for improving the draft of the Gazetteer.

I am grateful to the learned members of the State Advisory Board for District Gazetteers, who offered valuable suggestions for enriching the various chapters of the Gazetteer.

Thanks are also due to Shri M. D. Khare, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, who kindly sent us a note on excavations in Vidisha.

The photographs included in this volume have been received from the Archaeological Survey of India, Central Circle, Bhopal and the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Madhya Pradesh. I am grateful to them for their kind help. Three photographs included in this volume were taken by the Departmental photographer Shri Yaduraj Singh.

Shri K. R. R. C. Nair has looked after the printing of this Gazetteer. Shri S. M. Rastogi has also been associated with the printing work of some of the chapters. I am thankful to both of them.

Bhopal
26th Jan. 1979

S. D. Guru
State Editor

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Location and Extent

Vidisha District extends between the latitude 23° 21' and 24° 22' north and longitude 77° 15'30" and 78° 18' east. The District is situated in the central part of the State and eastern part of the fertile Malwa region. The shape of this District is more or less elliptical and the longer axis lies from N.W. to S.E. with slight projections on the north, north west, south and south-west. Its greatest length from north-west to south-east is about 133.6 km. and the greatest width from north-east to south-west is about 96 km. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the southern stretch of the District, about 2 km. south of the District headquarters. It is bounded in the north and north-east by Guna district, in the south by Raisen district, in the east by Sagar district and in the south-west by Sehore district.

Area and Population

The area of the District is 7,433 sq. km¹. The population of the District is 6,58,427². The provisional population figures in 1971 Census were 6,56,011.

Origin of the Name

The District derives its name from the headquarters town of Vidisha. The earliest reference of Vidisha is contained in the *Ramayana* by Valmiki. It is stated there that Shatrughana's son Shatrughati was placed in charge of Vidisha. The latter place has been mentioned in the *Mahabharat*.

The historicity of the ancient city of Besnagar, three kilometres from modern Vidisha and identified with ancient Vidisha, goes back to some centuries before the birth of Christ. Besnagar figures prominently in Buddhist, Jain and Brahmanical literature in various forms such as Vessanagar, Vaisyanagar, etc. Tradition connects the town with Raja Rukmangada who, neglecting his own wife for the *Apsara* Visva, named the town Vishvanagar after her³. The *Skanda Puran* refers to Vidisha as a *tirth* (holy place) which

1. Census of India, 1971, M.P. At A Glance, p. 19.

2. *ibid.*

3. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. VIII, p. 105.

should be visited after visiting Someshwar. The *Brihata Samhita* also makes a mention of Vidisha.

On the destruction of Besnagar, located on the western side of the Betwa sometime after 7th century A.D., a new town sprang up on the eastern bank of the river. This new town was known as Bhailaswamin or Bhillaswamin, so named after the god sun, to whom a temple was dedicated here. The name of the place was later corrupted to Bhilsa, when Al Beruni visited the town in 11th century A.D. The Jain scriptures use the form Bhadulpur, and regard it as the holy place (tirth) of Sital Nath, the tenth Tirthankar of Jain religion.

The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions Bhilsa (Vidisha) and Sironj, as *Mahals* under the Sarkars (Districts) of Raisen and Chanderi, respectively. Ganj Basoda (a tahsil headquarters) was also a district during the 19th century¹. In Gwalior State, Vidisha (Bhilsa) was a tahsil of Isagarh pargana. In 1904 Vidisha was raised to a District having two tahsils of Vidisha and Basoda till the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948. The District was enlarged in 1949 by the merger of small States of Kurwai, Mohammadgarh and Pathari which formed Kurwai Tahsil. The Sironj sub-division with two tahsils of Sironj and Lateri, formerly in Kota district of Rajasthan State, and the small Pargana of Piklon consisting of 11 villages belonging to Bhopal State were added to the District in 1956 with the formation of new Madhya Pradesh. At the same time the town and the District were renamed as Vidisha.

The former State of Kurwai was divided into four parganas in 1900. In 1918-19 there were two tahsils in the State, viz, Kurwai and Sherwasa.

Kurwai Of these, one formed a compact unit while the other was much scattered and interlaced with Gwalior territory. In 1952, twelve villages of Kurwai tahsil (Area 21.2 sq. miles) were transferred to Mungaoli tahsil of Guna district², while 10 villages of Bhopal State were included in the Tahsil.

Sironj was a kingdom of Raja Roopan in Alha's times³. 'Sironj' has been mentioned thrice in the famous *Alha Khand*. Sengar Rajput Shankar-singh is said to have developed this place, which was known as Sengaraj, corrupted to Sironj. The *Vakiyat* of Tonk also supports this view. Since the conquest of Malwa by Sher Shah Sur, Sironj was kept as a pargana and ruled through

Sironj Sub-
Division

-
1. Report on the Political Administration of the Native States within the Bhopal Agency, 1870.
 2. Madhya Bharat Government Revenue Department Notification No. 1116/6, D. A. I dated 3-9-1952 and M. B. Government gazette dated 11 Sept., 1952.
 3. Ghanshyam Sharan Bhargava, *Sironj Ka Itihas*, pp. 32-33 A.

an *Amil* (Administrator) under the *Sarkar* of Chanderi. The Mughals maintained this arrangement. The Barodah village in Sironj tahsil was also a *Mahal* in *Sarkar* Chanderi during Akbar's reign. Sironj had come into the possession of the Peshwas through Chhatrasal and it was with the Holkars from A.D. 1757. Yashwantrao Holkar then gave Sironj to Amin-ud-Dowlah in A.D. 1788, and it remained under his descendents till 1948.

The State of Tonk included the *Pargana* of Sironj. The State entered into Subsidiary Alliance with the British on the 9th November, 1817. With this alliance the Aligarh *Pargana* (Rampur) was awarded to the *Nawab*. In the year 1892 there were four tahsils in the *Pargana*, viz., Lateri, Anandpur, Devapur and Deepanakheda¹. From 1898 the three tahsils of the *Pargana* were Sadar, Eastern and Western. The *Amil* or the Administrator of the *Pargana* had almost all powers for local administration. These powers were reduced after the rebellion of the *Amil* in 1835. It was during the rule of Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan that the designation of *Amil* was changed to *Nazim*, who enjoyed magisterial powers, but the Police and Judiciary were made separate branches of administration.

On the 30th April, 1948, Sironj alongwith Tonk State was merged in the United Rajasthan State. The *pargana* was made a district with two tahsils at Sironj and Lateri. The third tahsil, Siyalpur was merged in Sironj. However, on the 7th April, 1949, the present State of Rajasthan was formed and in 1950, the District was abolished and made a Sub-Division of Kota district. On the 1st November, 1956, Sironj Sub-Division was transferred to new Madhya Pradesh and was merged in Vidisha District.

Sub-Divisions and Tahsils

Vidisha (Bhilsa) was a part of Prant Malwa of the former Gwalior State. It was a part of Ujjain Division and then of Gwalior Division in former Madhya Bharat. Since the formation of Madhya Pradesh Vidisha remains a part of Bhopal Division. At present Vidisha District is divided into five tahsils, viz., Vidisha, Basoda, Kurwai, Sironj and Lateri. There is a residential Sub-Divisional Officer at Sironj with Sironj, Kurwai and Lateri Tahsils in his charge. The Sub-Divisional Officers for Vidisha and Basoda have their headquarters at Vidisha. The area and the population (1971) of each Tahsil of the District was as under.

1. *ibid.* pp. 4, 71.

Table No. I-1

Area¹ and Population

	Area (sq. km.)	Persons
1. Lateri Tahsil	986.32	55,755
2. Sironj Tahsil	1,254.54	106,969
3. Kurwai Tahsil	831.44	85,140
4. Basoda Tahsil	2,292.46	203,752
5. Vidisha Tahsil	1,937.69	206,811

Topography

The District of Vidisha lies on the Vindhyaçal plateau, off the main Vindhyaçal range, which throws several spurs towards the north and north-east. The plateau slopes towards the north and is drained by a number of rivers of Malwa and Bundelkhand. These rivers have formed their valleys between the spur fanges. Most of Vidisha lies in the valley of the Betwa river, which flows from south to north. This valley is bordered by the Garhi-Teonda range in the east and Ganiari-Raghogarh range in the west. Both these ranges form part of the ranges of Vindhyaçal on the Malwa plateau and extend from south to north.

The Physical features of the District can be divided into the following five Divisions :

1. The Valley of the Betwa proper,
2. The Bina Valley,
3. The Eastern Range,
4. The Western Range, and
5. The Sindh Valley.

The valley extends from south to north in the central part of the District and is 50 to 65 km. wide. It includes the Betwa valley and the valleys of its tributaries the Besh, Bah, Sagar and the Kethan in the west and the Nion and the Keotan in the east which also extend in strips among the hill ranges of the west and the east, respectively. These cover a very large area of the District excluding Lateri tahsil. The area is either a plain or a gently rolling series

1. This excludes some of the Reserved forest blocks and is based on the Land Records Deptt. since the Survey of India does not provide Tahsil figures.

of mounds and valleys. Its cover in the valleys is a rich black soil because of the silt deposits mostly derived from the basalt rocks. Mostly these have been taken for cultivation and the tract is known as one of the major wheat growing tracts of Malwa. However, the above fact, in coincidence with the hard rocks below the surface, the poor moisture conditions of the soil especially in summer and ill-drainage during the rains do not favour a rich forest growth. Small patches of light loamy soil and narrow belts of sandy soil along the stream banks, which are well-drained, are exceptions to this.

The *Doab* formed between the Bah and the Betwa in the south-western part of the District is a very fertile and richly cultivated area. Small patches of good land are also available to the north of the Bah, near Shamsabad in the west and around Nateran in the east. Further north the valley, though quite rich in the eastern part of Sironj and the western part of Kurwai, does not attain the average of the soils in Vidisha and Basoda tahsils. Nearly all the tributaries of the Betwa in Vidisha, except the Bina, Sahodra, and Parasari, have cut up their banks to varying lengths and degrees. Nearly all the important grain-trading settlements, viz., Vidishá, Ganj Basoda, Kurwai, etc., are located on the east bank of the Betwa.

Although the Bina is a tributary of the Betwa, its valley is distinct from the valley of the Betwa by the intervening spur of the Vindhyaçal, known as Garhi-Teonda range. The Bina valley extends in a narrow belt along the eastern boundary and also includes the valleys of its tributaries, the Babnai and the Bagaru, which drain the narrow belt east of the forts of Nawab Basoda and Bagrod. The village of Pathari also overlooks the Bina valley.

The Garhi-Teonda range extends from south to north between the valleys of the Betwa and the Bina. It is the most extensive hill range in the District, and also the most prominent, the highest peak of Lakholi (665.7 meters) being located in its southern part. Other peaks are near Mahuakhera (600 metres), Nawab Basoda (630.3 metres), Teonda (569.3 metres), and Pathari (575.5) metres). The average elevation is 520 metres. The geological strata of this area differs from the rest of the District in as much as the trap cover has been removed by the erosion from a large area and the substrata are rich in hard sedimentary rocks, sandstone and limestone of very high quality. However, variations in the colour, texture and quality may be found. The hills and slopes are covered with forests. Gyaspur and Udaipur are located amidst west side foothills of this range. Basoda, Mahammadgarh, Bagrod, Teonda and Pathari settle near the eastern slopes of this range.

The Western range formed a spur of the Northern Vindhya range but it has been denuded and disjointed at several points. The range crosses Lateri tahsil from south to north and also forms a tableland in the western part of Sironj tahsil. The peak of Chopra near the source of Sapan *nadi* is 557.8 metre high, that of Lateri is 542.5 metre and Suran Tal 548.2 metre. The western slope drains into the Parbati. The hills of Kamrari and Mukbar Pahar in Basoda tahsil, and Hinotia and Sair may also be grouped in this range as its denuded parts. Excepting the north-eastern parts of Lateri tahsil and a few patches of cultivated fertile land, the range is covered extensively with poor quality Mixed Forests.

The Western range and an off-shoot from Nainwas to Surantal make an angle enclosing the upper stream of the Sind and separating their waters from those of the Keotan (and Betwa) in the east and the Parbati in the west. Anandpur settles in the small area of the District drained by the Sind.

Drainage

The entire District lies in the drainage basin of the Yamuna. The general slope is from south to north in which direction all the major streams of the District flow. The drainage area of these streams is separated by two sub-water divides which run from south to north in the District. Between these two sub-water divides is the Betwa Basin proper. A belt of 10 to 15 km. across the Teonda range in the east drains into the Bina, a tributary of the Betwa. Similarly a small area lying to the west of Lateri hill drains into the Parbati river through the Ten, the Dudhia and other west flowing streams. Apart from these, the feeders of the Sind which flow between the Betwa and the Parbati occupy the northern part of Lateri tahsil. The drainage pattern in general is dendritic superimposed developed on the trap and superimposed on underlying sandstones.

The character of water-flow in the rivers and streams is seasonal, fluctuating greatly with seasons. However, the major streams on the trap formations are neither very deep and steep-sided as on the hills formed of hard and older formations of the Peninsula, nor with so low banks as to flood wide spans of their valleys, like the rivers of the Northern plains.

The Betwa

The Betwa or Betrawati is a river of great antiquity. The Betwa rises from the main Vindhyan range in the extreme south-west ($23^{\circ}2' N.$, $77^{\circ}20' E$) of Raisen district. It is the third largest river of Malwa region. After a course of 96 km. it enters the District 6 km. south of Vidisha. It continues flowing

towards the north-east, in a more or less level country. It leaves the District after a course of about 112 km. after its confluence with the Kethan and forms the boundary between Guna, Shivpuri, Jhansi and Jalaun districts on its left and Sagar, Jhansi, Tikamgarh and Hamirpur on the right. The important tributaries of the river are the Kaliasot, Ajoar, Besh, Bah, Sagar, Kethan, Orr, etc., joining it on the left bank, and the Richhan, Dabar, Nion, Parasri, Bina, Jamni, Dhasan and Birma on the right bank. Of these the Dhasan is a very significant stream of Bundelkhand region. Among the tributaries the Besh, Sahodra, Bah, Sagar, Kethan, Nion, Parasri, and Bina flow in Vidisha District. Beshnagar in Vidisha District is a place of great archaeological importance along this river.

The Western Tributaries

The Bes

The Bes river is also known as the Besh and the Halali. It rises at 23°20' 77°16' near village Parawalia in Sehore district and flows towards the north-east. It enters the plains of Vidisha through Raisen district after flowing in a narrow gorge which also serves as a boundary for 22 km. between Raisen and Vidisha districts. The gorge, incidentally, offers prospects for a storage dam and one of the sites has been selected for construction of a masonry dam. The river joins the Betwa 3 km. north of Vidisha. Its total length is about 65 km. of which 15 km. lie within the boundaries of the District.

The Bah-Bah

The Bah-Bah rises from Hinotia hill in Berasia tahsil of Sehore district. It flows to the north-east and is joined by the Bawan *nala*, a much longer stream on its left, in Sehore district. For the most part the Bah lies on the plains of Vidisha. The course of this river serves as a boundary between Basoda and Vidisha tahsils. This river has some flow even in the dry months of May and June and is the principal source of water for *Nistar* purposes of many villages on its banks.

Sagar

The Sagar rises from the jagged hill range 6 km. south-east of Lateri. After flowing through the plains in its lower course it joins the Betwa near Jodh. This river flows from west to east for 51 km. and also offers good sites for water storage.

The Naren

This is comparatively a small river rising from Murdnagar village near Sironj and flows for about 40 km. before meeting the Betwa near village Sarera of Kurwai tahsil.

The Kethan

The last of the significant tributaries joining the Betwa on its left is Kethan. It rises from the hill of Sakhlon between Murdnagar and Sironj town. The river is being tapped for a medium size irrigation tank. After a north-easterly course of 35 km., it enters Guna district. From near Bahadurpur in Guna it turns to the east and forms the northern most part of Vidisha District boundary where it joins the Betwa.

*The Eastern Tributaries**The Bina*

The Bina and Nion or Nihar rivers rise in Raisen District on either side of the Vindhya spur called Garhi-Teonda range. The Bina flows to the north in Raisen and Sagar districts and receives the waters of the Babnai and the Bagaru on its left bank. Both these tributaries of the Bina drain the eastern part of Vidisha District. The Bina enters the plain of Vidisha District in its later course and separates Sagar district from Vidisha.

The Nihar or the Nion

The Nion rises from the Garhi range, opposite the source of the Bina in Raisen and flows to the north-west. It drains the southern part of Vidisha District and joins the Betwa near Sumer.

The Keotan

The Keotan river is an important stream rising from the Mahuakhera hill of the Eastern (Teonda) range and joining the Betwa on its right bank. The river's length is entirely confined to the District.

The Sind

The Sind rises at $24^{\circ}2' : 77^{\circ}27'$ about 8 km. south-east of Lateri and flows to the north in Guna, Shivpuri, Gwalior, Datia and Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh before joining the Yamuna in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. Out of a total course of about 400 km. only the first 35 km. lie in this District. The river drains a small part of Vidisha District and attains a large size from Narwar onwards. The important tributaries of the river are the Choch, Retam, Chachond, Saon, Besli, Sonari, Pahuj and Kurwai.

Geology

The different geological formations occurring in Vidisha (Bhilsa) District are (i) Alluvium, (ii) Laterite and (iii) Deccan Trap (Malwa Trap) with inter-trappean beds.

Alluvium

Alluvium occurs over a large part of the area particularly along the course of streams like the Betwa, Sagar, Besh, etc. It consists mainly of a yellow or grey-brown sandy clay and contains a large proportion of *Kankar* as seen near Israrbar, Basoda, Imibia, Garla, etc. Along the Betwa river, it often forms steep cliffs in the northern part of the area. Near Girod the alluvium is about 50' (15 m.) thick.

Laterite

These occur in some places as caps on some high trap hills, but generally as ferruginous cellular rocks capping low lying Deccan trap hills, in places surrounded by alluvium. These are used mainly as a road metal.

Deccan Trap [Malwa Trap] with inter-trappeans

The Deccan Trap (Malwa Trap) is the most widespread rock formation in this District. These rocks are horizontal or nearly horizontal, the dark Lava flows lend to the countryside a terraced appearance. The principal rock is a basalt having vesicles filled with zeolite, agate, calcite, etc.

The inter-trappeans, mainly impure crystalline limestone and calcareous chert, occur as residual blocks and boulders scattered over the surface, as well as discontinuous outcrops amidst the Deccan Trap. Small isolated outcrops of intertrappeans, mostly limestone, have been reported in Vidisha District near Harinkheri, Lakchihari etc.

Economic Minerals

The District provides inexhaustible reserves of building materials. The important minerals are described below.

Limestone

The reserves of an intertrappean limestone deposit, 58 kilometres from Ganj Basoda Railway Station¹, have been estimated at 50,000 tons covering an area of one acre and is on an average 8 metres thick. The limestone is fine-grained, compact and greyish in colour. The deposit has been worked in the past for lime for local use.

Numerous segregated, rounded masses of richly aluminous laterite were found near Konkargarh and Isarwas and again near Kotra and Agra in the Sironj Sub-Division embedded in brecciated and pellety laterite.

1. Mineral Wealth of Madhya Pradesh, Vol. 3, Nos. 1-4, 1959-60, p. 41, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of M.P., Raipur.

Laterite

There are large cappings of laterite in the District. The hard compact varieties of laterite are sometimes used as building stones. The soft rock has also been widely used as a road metal.

Vindhyan Sandstones

A great thickness of the upper Vindhyan sandstones covers a large area of the District. These sandstones form excellent building material and are extensively quarried. Most of the quarries are in Kaimur or Rewa sandstones. The Kaimur sandstone is usually the strongest and most durable material. It is usually utilised for building massive structures. The sandstone being softer is used for the purpose of delicate carvings for which the carvers from Bhopal Division are conveniently situated with regard to transport facilities.

Basalts

The Deccan trap basalts are used for ordinary building stones, mostly for village huts and occasionally for foundation upto plinth level. Due to difficulty of getting well-dressed blocks the tendency is to avoid this rock as far as practicable.

Road Metal

The chief source is the Deccan trap. Other important rocks used are laterite and Vindhyan sandstones.

Clay

White clay is reported from a place near Kurwai. The clay varies a good deal in colour due to iron stainings.

Green Earth

Green earth is reported to be common in the Deccan Trap area. The most important occurrence lies on the bank of the Betwa river near Bijrota. This occurrence is about 1.6 km. to the north of Bareilly Railway Station of the Central Railway. The green earth is the result of alteration of the green minerals (celadonite and chlorophaeite) occurring in the cavities of the extremely vesicular trap. Occurrence of similar green earth is also reported from the bed of the Parasia Nadi, west of Joghara ($23^{\circ}55':77^{\circ}59'$).

Fuller's Earth

It is found in Chanderi area.

Iron Ore

There are occurrences of laterite of highly ferruginous composition spread over an area in the District. The laterite cappings were tapped at places as a source of iron-ore for the indigenous furnaces.

Ground Water

For a general examination of the sub-soil—hydrology the District may be divided into Deccan Trap area and Vindhyan area.

Deccan Trap Area

Good supply of groundwater is always somewhat problematical in the Deccan trap country. The chances of locating sufficient groundwater lie in the porous inter-trappean beds or in the underlying rocks, where the trap is thin. The storage of water in the rock itself depends on the nature and frequency of fissures, presence of dykes and mostly on the degree of weathering and disintegration undergone.

Due to the impervious nature of the rock, storage reservoirs are likely to be successful depending upon the local topography and the rainfall. In a general way shallow wells in the trap country yield all the water needed except in the summer season of a drought year. Within the traps, the water level is found to vary in depth from 6 to 12 m. (20 feet to 40 feet) from the surface. The yield also varies considerably. It has been observed that in the traps occurrences of close apaced horizontal joints seem to be most suitable for large yield, while columnar joints come next in importance. Occurrences of "red bole" in a well generally indicates poor yield.

Vindhyan Area

Groundwater conditions within the Vindhyan are mostly far from being satisfactory. Wells within the formation generally dry up in summer, and the water level is fairly deep—more than 15 metres.

Earthquakes

Seismically Vidisha District is located in a zone where earthquakes have been felt with slight intensity in the past. Although no epicentre of earthquake of any consequence has been located in the District, it has experienced fringe effects of the great earthquakes originating in the Himalayan Boundary Fault Zone and the Rann of Kutch. The following is the list of earthquakes which were felt with slight intensity in the District in the past.

Table No. 1-2
Location And Magnitude of Earthquakes

S. N.	Date	Location	Magnitude
1.	16th June, 1819	Kutch	8
2.	12th June, 1897	Assam	8
3.	4th April, 1905	Kangra	8
4.	15th January, 1934	Bihar-Nepal Border	8½

In addition to these some places in the Deccan Trap areas experienced a number of tremors. The cause of these continuous tremors have been ascribed to local crustal readjustment below the surface of the earth. These were of shallow focus and caused no damage to civil engineering structures. In the Earthquake Zoning Map of India, published in the Building Code,¹ the District of Vidisha falls in Zone I.

Flora

The Forests of the District form part of Raisen Forest Division and are divided into two Sub-Divisions and four Ranges. The area under each of these ranges is given below.²

Table No. 1-3
Rangewise Area of Forests

Sanchi sub-Division	Gyaraspur Range	19,824	Hectares
" "	Shamshabad Range	15,875	"
Sironj sub-Division	Lateri Range	35,327	"
" "	Sironj Range	18,785	"
	Total	89,811	"

The forests cover about two-fifths of the total area in the District. They mostly occupy the hill ranges and steep slopes both on the trap formations and on the Vindhyan sandstones. A few patches of vegetation are also to be found along the water courses. The main forest type occurring in the District, based on H. G. Champion's classification, is Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous, Group 4-a, C-I with minor extent of Dry Deciduous Scrub forest, type D. Tr-2,5-1/2. The Deccan Trap forms flat-topped hills and undulating ground yielding black cotton soil, supporting vegetative growth and carrying predominantly teak crop.

1. Criteria for Earthquake Resistant Design of Structure, Is-1898-1966, Indian Standards Institution.
2. Working Scheme of Sironj Sub-Division for the years 1961-71, Chapter I, pp. 2-3; Working Plan for Gyaraspur and Shamshabad Ranges for the period 1967-1976, Chapter 1, p. 2.

The Vindhyan give rise to poorer mixed forests with an increase of inferior species. Considering the predominant species, the base rocks and the quality of the stock the forests of Sanchi and Sironj Sub-Divisions have been classified in the following ecological classes.

1. Teak Forests

- (i) Good quality forests in Sironj Sub-Division
- (ii) Medium " " " Sanchi " "
- (iii) Poor " " " " " "

2. Mixed Forests

- (i) On Trap formations in both the Sub-Divisions
- (ii) On Vindhyan formations in Sanchi Sub-Division
- (iii) On laterite soil in Sironj Sub-Division predominated by Khair

3. Grass Reserves in Sironj Sub-Division

4. Bamboo Forests " " " "

1. (i) Good Quality Teak Forests

The quality sub-type occupies the well drained soils in the valleys in Lateri Range. Teak (*Tactona grandis*) forms about 80 to 90 per cent of the tree-crop. The crop is uneven-aged with girth at breast height ranging from 0.6 metres to 1.2 metres. Usually there is a good deal of advance growth, both in seedling and sapling stages. The ground cover mostly consists of grasses with a few shrubs and weeds. The most common climber is *Apluda aristata* (See Appendix B).

1 (ii) Medium Quality Teak Forests

The quality Sub-Type occurs in the comparatively upper reaches of Lateri Range and Chitwar block of Sironj range, and valley and lower gentle slopes in Kolua block of Shamshabad range and Ponja block of Gyaspur range. The percentage of teak decreases with the increase in height or with the decrease in the richness of soil. It varies from 40 to 70 per cent. The highest varies from 12.49 metres to 18.20 metres and the girth at breast height 0.5 to 1.0 metre, which corresponds to All India Quality IV. The density is good (0.6 to 0.8) in the valleys and lower slopes but is moderate (0.3 to 0.5) on the higher and steeper slopes where the crop is open. The crop generally consists of young to middle-aged stands. Mature trees are scattered. Underwood is more thick than in good quality Teak Forests. Shrubs and weeds are usually thick to the extent of elimination of grasses at places.

1. (iii) Poor Quality]Teak Forests

This type is found in dry exposed localities where soil is superficial due to heavy grazing and fires are frequent. The height growth is usually below 12.29 metres. The quality of the crop corresponds to All India Quality V. Teak forms about 40 to 60 per cent of the crop. The ground-cover consists of thick shrubs and grasses.

2. (i) Mixed Forests on Traps

Mixed forests containing less than 20 per cent teak in the growing stock are present in Sironj Sub-Division, usually on black cotton soil. These are fairly conspicuous near Tinsia, Mohanpur, Phati-Dant, Chamar-Kondal and along Dudhia nadi. They occur between Banskheri and Mirzapur in Sironj range but are predominated by salai (*Bosewellia serrata*)

2. (ii) Mixed Forests on Vindhyan

The Mixed forests on Vindhyan sandstones and resultant soils are almost all without teak (*Tactona grandis*) in Shamshabad and Gyaraspur ranges. The general quality of the mixed crop is comparatively poor. The height growth is invariably below 12.49 metres. The soil is generally shallow sandy loam. However, in well-drained soils along water-courses height-growth is better. A second storey is not distinct since the crop is generally of small size. The canopy is rather open, and density hardly exceeding 0.6. Reproduction is invariably deficient.

2. (iii) Mixed Forests on Laterite

By far the most extensive forests are predominated by khair (*Acacia catechu*) in the Dry Mixed Deciduous forests. These occur on lateritic soils (*Rakad*) covering almost the entire Sironj range except Chitawar block, and small portions of Lateri range. Khair (*Acacia catechu*) forms more than 50 per cent of the crop and frequently occurs almost pure in association with palas (*Butea monosperma*). Khair trees are hardly 5 to 7 metres high. The growth is mostly bushy. Trees with girth at breast height (GBH) above 0.4 metre are almost absent.

3. Bamboo Forests

Dendrocalamus strictus is the only species of bamboos occurring in the District. It is found in a narrow belt fairly well-grown on either side of the Dudhia river in Tinsia and Chamarkondal blocks of Lateri range. In Sironj range these are localised in a small patch near Samal Kheri in Garoth block.

4 Grass Birs

A list of common species occurring in the forest of the District is given in Appendix B.

There are in all 315 Grass Reserves varying in size from 0.2 to 283.3 hectares scattered all over Sironj and Lateri ranges, which are auctioned annually for the cutting of grasses. These consists usually of open understocked forests, both of teak and miscellaneous species. The common grasses found are gunher (*Themeda quadrivalvis*), phuli (*Apluda aristata*), paonia (*Sehima sulcata*), kusul (*Heteropogan contortus*), kail and machol.

Medicinal Plants

Various plants to which some medicinal property or the other is attributed grow in the District. In most of the cases the medicinal property is only a matter of local knowledge and no commercial exploitation is done except for *Harra*, *Aonla* and *Behara* which form the famous *Triphala*. Some edible gums are obtained from *dhaora* (*Acogolissus latifolia*), and *khair* (*Acacia catechu*). *Mahua* (*Mahnuca latifolia*) is another tree of great value.

Game Preservation and Laws

The extension of cultivation, the destruction of forest areas, and the absence of scientific management of the game in the past, adversely affected the wild life in the District. The ex-rulers and jagirdars shot the game for fun as and when they liked in their respective jurisdictions, though the general public was debarred from shooting in the Reserves. After the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948, most of the Reserved forests were opened for permit holders. However, the poaching activities increased during the fifties. The increased number of gun licences and the use of jeep-cars made it easy to kill animals without a sense of adventure and for easy economic gains. However, it is now being suppressed by the Government with greater zeal. With the formation of Madhya Pradesh, the following Acts and Rules were made applicable to preserve the wild life in the District.

1. Shooting rules made under the provisions of section 27 (i) of the Indian Forest Act XVI of 1927 as detailed in Appendix VII of Central provinces Forest Manual Volume II. (ii) The Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1922. (ii) The Central Provinces Act of 1939 as amended in 1937 and 1939 and Central Provinces and Berar Game Rules, 1942. (iv) Madhya Pradesh Forest (Hunting, shooting, fishing, poisoning and setting traps in Reserved or Protected Forests) Rules, 1953.

At present the forests are divided into a number of shooting blocks, and

the Divisional Forest Officer, Raisen issues the shooting permits specifying the shoot and the shooting block.

Fauna

The zoological types in the category of mammals found in the District are Indian hare or Khargosh (*Lepus ruficaudatus*), black or kala hiran (*Antelona cervicaprea*) which has become very rare mostly due to indiscriminate poaching, porcupine, squirrel, beavers, four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*), barking deer (*Carvus mutjac*), sambhar (*Carvus unicolor*), chital (*Carvus axis*), pig, boar, tiger, (*Felis tigris*), leopard (*Felis pardus*), nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), and monkey (*Semnopithecus entehus*).

Table No. 1-4

Number of Wild Animals Reported in 1968

Name of Range & Shooting Block	Tiger	Panther	Sambhar	Cheetal	Other deer	Blue Bull	Hyaena	Jackal
1. Gyaraspur Range								
Udaipura	3	—	10	4	30	—	—	—
Mohammadgarh	2	—	5	—	25	—	—	—
Ghatera	3	—	15	—	45	—	—	—
Gyaraspur	1	—	6	10	—	15	—	—
2. Shamshabad Range								
Shamshabad	—	—	—	—	20	25	10	—
Barkhera	2	—	—	12	30	26	10	—
Kotuwa	2	—	4	15	30	—	—	—
Basoda	2	—	4	15	30	—	—	—
3. Sironj Range								
Sironj	2	1	—	1	—	—	4	30
Somalkheri	4	2	—	1	—	12	4	20
Parda	4	2	—	—	12	20	6	10

Note :— No wild-life among the above species was noticed in Lateri range in 1968. The revised figures of tigers in May, 1970, in the ranges are Gyaraspur 4, Shamshabad, 3, Lateri 2, and Sironj 2. The panthers noticed are 5, 4, 4 and 2, respectively.

Birds

The birds met within the District are similar to those found in the adjoining districts. Pea-fowl or mor (*Pavo cristatus*), red jungle-fowl or jungli-murgi (*Gallus ferrugineus*), bhat titar (*Pterocles exustus*), greyfowl or bater

(*Coturnis communis*), and grey pigeon (*Harial*), are usually found. In the winter season the migratory water fowls, e. g., geese and ducks like pochards and teals are very common.

The open cultivated areas and the neighbourhood are affected by birds which live on insects found in the fields, grass-seeds, grain, etc. Among the birds which affect the open cultivated country are the spotted dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*), ring dove, and sand grouse (*Pterocles exustus*). The number of birds living in and around rivers, streams, tanks, etc., is also large. Among these are numerous species of storks, herons, cranes, ducks, etc.

The birds like jungli murgi (*Gallus sonneratti*), and (*Gallus ferruginous*), titar (*Eximolus pondicerianus*), bhat titar (*Pterocles exustus*), and species, bater (*Conturnix Communis*), and kabutar (*Columba intermedia*) are commonly found. The water birds commonly found are the varieties of teals and snipes.

The mahoka or southern crow-pheasant *Centropus chinensis parroti*, (Stressman), is seen in the scrubs, light forests, grasslands and cultivation in the District. It is a common belief in this region that it fitters away the bees from their comb and sucks the honey. It is due to this that its local name (*mahoka*) is derived from *madhu*, honey. Although it occasionally eats fruits and vegetables, it is mostly a carnivorous bird living on tiny animals like mice, lizards, snakes, frogs, crustaceans, insects and eggs of ground and bush nestling birds.

A clumsy, glossy bird with interscapular black (or Chestnut) wings, and long, broad, graduated black tail, the *mahoka* is a sort of non-parasitic cuckoo nestling in a large globular structure of twigs and leaves and breeding from November to May.

The pea fowl is locally called *mor*, the National Bird of India. The most striking feature is the multicoloured eye-shaped spots in its long tail and features which the male fans out in cloudy weather and in romantic moods.

Almost resembling the domestic fowl in size and colour, the grey jungle fowl (*Gallus-sonneratti*, Taminck) is a timid bird found hiding in the bushes, roosting up in trees and bamboo clumps.

Insects

The nocuous insects such as locusts, mosquitos, scorpions, moths, white ants and innocuous insects such as butterflies, cicadas, grasshopper, honey-bees, glow worms, and horsefly are commonly found in the District.

Fishes

The fish fauna of Vidisha District comprises some of the important varieties, viz., Katla (*Catla catla*), rohu (*Labeo rohita*), kalbasu (*Labeo calbasu*), *Labeo jubaratus*, gol (*Labeo gonius*) *Labeo bata*, mirgal (*Cirrhina mirgala*) (*Barbus tor*), *Barbus serana*, saul (*Ophiocephalus marulinus*), *Atta*, *Mystus seenghala*, etc.

Acquatic Species

Amongst the aquatic species crabs, turtles, snails, liverworts, beetles, and water crickets are very common.

Mortality from wild Animals and Reptiles

The cases of deaths caused by snakes and wild animals are registered in the police station in the District. The deaths caused by wild animals were reported nil in the District during the years 1969 and 1970. However, deaths caused by snake-bite were eight and five in the year 1969, and 1970 respectively.

Climate

The climate of the District is generally dry except during the south-west monsoon season. The nights are generally pleasant even in summer and justify the praise by the Mughals for Shab-i-Malwa famous throughout India. The summer is less intense than other places of North India and the winter is not very cold. The monsoon sets in generally during June and continues till the end of September. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season till mid-June. The period from mid-June to about the end of September constitutes the south-west monsoon season. October and November may be termed the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the District are available for five stations. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the District as a whole are given in Appendix A. The average annual rainfall in the District is 1,229.9 mm. The rainfall in the District generally increases from the north-west to the south-east. About 92 per cent of the annual rainfall in the District is received during the south-west monsoon months, June to September, July being the rainiest month. The variation in annual rainfall is appreciable in the District. In the 50 years period from 1901 to 1950, highest annual rainfall amounting to 149 per cent of the normal had occurred in 1948. The lowest annual rainfall which was 50 per cent of the normal occurred in 1905. The annual rainfall in the District was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 15 years, two consecutive years of

such low rainfall occurring four times. Considering the rainfall at individual stations, more than two consecutive years of such low rainfall had occurred at two stations viz., Vidisha and Basoda. Low rainfall, 20 per cent less than the normal, occurred in seven years at Vidisha and in four years at Basoda, consecutive years of such low rainfall occurred thrice at Vidisha and only once at Basoda during the 50 years period.

It will be seen from the tables in Appendix A that the annual rainfall in the District was between 1,000 and 1,500 mm., in 22 years out of 50.

On an average there are 32 rainy days, i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. (10 cents or more) in a year in the District. This number varies from 47 at Basoda to 56 at Mohammadgarh. The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours at any station in the District was 360.2 mm. at Basoda on the 31st July, 1951.

Temperature

There is no meteorological observatory in the District. However, after February temperatures increase steadily till May, which is generally the hottest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 40° C and the mean daily minimum at about 26° C. On individual days during the summer season the maximum temperature may sometimes go above 44° C. With the onset of the south-west monsoon in the District by about mid-June there is appreciable drop in temperatures. After the withdrawal of the monsoon by about the end of September, there is a slight increase in the day temperature but the nights become progressively cooler. After October both the day and night temperatures steadily decrease till January which is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at about 25° C., and the mean daily minimum at about 10·0° C. The District is affected by cold waves during the cold season in association with western disturbances passing across the northern part of India and the minimum temperature may drop down occasionally to a degree or so above the freezing point of water and frosts may occur.

Humidity

Except during the south-west monsoon season when the relative humidity is above 70 per cent, the air is generally dry over the District. The driest part of the year is the summer season when in afternoons the relative humidity is less than 20 per cent.

Cloudiness

During the monsoon season the skies are generally heavily clouded or overcast. In the rest of the year skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

Winds are generally light with some strengthening in force during the late summer and early part of the monsoon season. Winds blow mostly from directions between north-west and south-west during the south-west monsoon season. During October the winds are mostly light and variable in direction. In the cold season the winds are mostly north-easterly or easterly. North-westerly and westerly winds appear from January in the afternoons and by summer, these winds become predominant both in the mornings and afternoons.

Special Weather Phenomena

During the monsoon season depressions originating in the Bay of Bengal move in some westerly direction and reach the District or its neighbourhood causing widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Thunderstorms occur during the period from January to October, the highest incidence being in the early monsoon season. These may be associated with hail in winter and pre-monsoon months. Duststorms occur occasionally during the summer.



CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Archaeologically and historically Vidisha District is one of the richest regions of Madhya Pradesh. The archaeological wealth, scattered all over the District speaks of the glory that was Vidisha. The place was important not only in the prehistoric period but also in subsequent history, where it has acquired the status of a legend.

A few palaeolithic tools, including choppers, handaxes, cleavers, scrapers, bifaces, discs, etc., discovered in the valleys of the Betwa, Bina, Dhasan and Keothan give evidence of the palaeolithic culture which the Prehistory district must have possessed.¹ Chalcolithic tools, similar to those of Eran and Nagda were found in an ancient mound of the District. These consist of black painted red and black and red grey wares belonging to 1000-700 B. C. A few microlithic blades of crystalline quartz were also picked up from there. A few painted potteries of black and red and red polished ware were discovered just immediately over the chalcolithic layer, signifying the Aryan influence after the chalcolithic period.²

Coming down to the mythological and classical age we find a Puranic reference to Vidisha as a *janapada*.³ Another important reference is found in the pages of the *Skanda Purana* in which Vidisha appears as a holy place Classical History (*tirtha*), which should be visited after travelling to Someshwar.

As per *Anguttara Nikaya* Vidisha was included in the Avanti Janapada before the birth of the Buddha. According to traditional history the region was probably under the occupation of the Haihayas, who belonged to the Yadu clan.⁴ A scion of this dynasty, Kartavirya Sahasrarjuna (of thousand arms) is described in the *puranas* as a contemporary of Ravana, whom he kept imprisoned in his capital at Mahishmati. As per Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsham* Shatrughna, the youngest brother of Rama, expelled the Yadavas from this region and placed his son Subahu at Vidisha.⁵ In Bana's *Kadambari* we find

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1. Indian Archaeology - A Review, 1959-60, pp. 71 and 22; 1960-61, p. 13.
 2. *ibid.* 1962-63, p. 10; 1964-65, p. 34.
 3. S. M. Ali, *The Geography of the Puranas*, pp. 157-59, N. L. Dey, *The Geographical Dictionary of Ancient and Mediaeval India*, p. 54.
 4. *The Vedic Age*, p. 284.
 5. *Raghuvamsham*, Verse 36. According to the *Ramayana*, it was Shatrughna's son Shatrughati who was given charge of Vidisha.

■ king, named Sudraka who ruled over Vidisha on the bank of the Vetravati (Betwa).

The region around Vidisha was known in ancient time as Dasharna, with Vidisha or Besnagar as its capital. Kautilya the minister of Chandragupta Maurya, referred to this region as Dasharna and so also did Kalidasa. Dasharna (eastern Malwa) extended over the adjacent Sagar plateau, dissected by the deeply entrenched valleys of the river Dhasan and its headwaters.

In Brahmanical Buddhist and Jain literature Vidisha has been called by different names, viz., Vessanagar, Vaisvanagar, Visvanagar, Besnagar, Vaidisa, Vidisa, etc. During the days of the Buddha, i. e., in the sixth century B. C., Vidisha's place was very exalted in all respects. The economic prosperity was due to its advantageous position on the cross roads of two important trade routes. One of these ran from Pratisthan (modern Paithan in the Godavari region) to Mahishmati, Ujjayini, Gonadda, Vaidisa (Vidisha) and Kausambi, while the other connected Bharukachchha (Broach) and Surparak on the Arabian Sea, to Mathura via Ujjayini. A branch of this route ran from Vidisha to Kausambi through the valley of the Betwa, or Betravati and then to Pataliputra.¹

In the itinerary of Jivaka, who was sent from the Magadhan court of Ajatashatru to treat the king of Avanti, Chanda Pradyota, Vidisha, Gonaddha, Ujjain and Mahishmati are mentioned.² Jivaka must have travelled by one of the trade routes. Substantial merchandises used to be carried over on these routes, which gradually made Vidisha one of the richest cities of ancient India. In fact, the magnificent *Stupa* of Sanchi was built largely by the donations from the business community of Vidisha, though by general belief Asoka erected the grand cupola. The economic prosperity of this place was retained till the days of the Guptas, because in his *Meghaduta* Kalidasa has referred to Vidisha as a place where everybody gets wealth to his heart's contents.

In Sanskrit literature eastern Malwa, including the Vidisha region, was referred to as Akara, that rose to a great height of cultural superiority in the Buddhist and the subsequent period. The brightest era, of course, lasted from Asoka's reign to the Imperial Guptas. Sanchi stood in symbolic relation to Buddhism. Equally interesting is the Heliodorus pillar at Besnagar which gives ample evidence of Brahmanical influence coexisting with Buddhism in this area.

1. Moti Chandra, *Sarhava* p. 24., *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. I, p. 460.

2. Rhys Davids, *Buddhist India*, p. 103 (as quoted in *Bhopal State Gazetteer*, p. 104)

The Mauryas

We learn from the *Dipavamsa* that Asoka, still a prince aged 18, was appointed a Viceroy by his father, Bindusara, at Ujjain. While on his way from Pataliputra to that place he met Devi, a banker's daughter of Vidisha or Besnagar of the Sakya clan and married her. Her son Mahendra, and daughter Sanghamitra are famous in history as their father's religious ambassadors to Ceylon. They are known to have carried a twig of the original *Bodhi* tree and led a Buddhist mission to that country. Devi never visited Pataliputra. She stayed at Besnagar and embraced Buddhism afterwards. Recently a monastery type of building has been excavated near the Sanchi *Stupa*, which is stated to have been constructed for her residence.¹ It is said that before sailing for Ceylon Mahendra came to visit his mother at Besnagar. The mother took her son to a "*Chaitya giri*" which, by popular belief, was none other than the Sanchi *Stupa*.

Recent excavation has revealed the possibility of a large scale fire in Vidisha which is attributed by some historians to Chandragupta Maurya. The reason is not known why he tried to destroy the whole town by a devastating fire.

Vidisha as a City State

The last of the Mauryan kings, Brihadratha was overthrown by his minister Pushyamitra Sunga in 187 B. C. Sometime during the weak rule of the former, Vidisha, like Tripuri, Mahishmti and many other contemporary towns, might have emerged as an independent City State, temporarily. The proof of this lies in the discovery of a few copper coins with signs of three Brahmi letters, read as Vedisa or Veddasa (Sanskrit Vidisa). The characters are similar to those of the inscriptions of Asoka.² On the basis of stratigraphy and palaeography the coins may be dated to the 3rd and 2nd century B. C.³

As stated before, Pushyamitra came to power after slaying his weak master. The Sungas ruled originally as feudatories of the Mauryas at Vidisha. Pushyamitra tried to reinforce his position by marrying his son Agnimitra to Princess Malavika of Vidarbha. She was the daughter of Madhavasena and niece of Yajnasena, the ruler of Vidarbha. Some historians think that Pushyamitra gave his daughter to Satakarni of the Satavahana house.⁴

1. Archaeological Survey of India (Annual Report), 1936-37, pp. 84-87.

2. The Journal of the Numismatic Society of India Vol. XXIII, p. 307.

3. Seminar Papers on the Local Coins of India, c. 300 B.C. to 300 A.D. (no 2).

4. *Cambridge History of India*, p. 471, H. Dwivedi, *Madhya Bharat Ka Itihasa*, Vol. 1, p. 385.

During the Sunga regime Vidisha became the capital of Akara or eastern Malwa, and one of the most flourishing cities of India.

Agnimitra served as his father's Viceroy from his headquarters at Vidisha. It is significant to note that though the capital of the Sunga kings was at Pataliputra, still Pushyamitra and Agnimitra were called the rulers of Vidisha.¹

According to Kalidasa's play *Malavikagnimitram* Pushyamitra repulsed an attack of the Yavanas (probably the Bactrian Greeks), when the sacrificial horse of his *Asvamedha* sacrifice went to the bank of the Sindhu and was stopped by them. Agnimitra's son, Vasumitra was placed in charge of the roaming horse. The news of the Yavana attack was conveyed to Agnimitra at Vidisha. Actually Pushyamitra performed not one, but two *Asvamedha* sacrifices to herald the victory of Brahmanism over the Buddhist faith.² One of the *Asvamedha* sacrifices was probably performed at Vidisha itself, as evidenced by the recent excavations³. Pushyamitra ruled for about 36 years (187-151 B. C.) and at the end of an eventful life left for his son Agnimitra a vast territory, including the cities of Pataliputra, Ayodhya, Vidisha and probably Jalandhar and Sakala.⁴ There is a reference in the *Malavikagnimitram* to the newly formed independent kingdom in the region of Vidarbha. Yajnasena, the king of Vidarbha had a strained relation with the Sungas of Vidisha on the arrest of Madhavasena, who was a cousin of Yajnasena but a friend of Agnimitra. Agnimitra gave order to his brother-in-law Virasena (who was already placed in charge of a fortress in the frontier, on the banks of the Narmada) to invade Vidarbha and effect the release of Madhavasena. Yajnasena was defeated in the encounter and ultimately Vidarbha was divided between the two cousins Yajnasena and Madhavasena, both acknowledging the Sunga suzerainty.⁵ Probably after this incident the northern rulers entered a state of political relationship with the Satavahana monarchs of Andhra. As stated in the *puranas* Agnimitra seems to have reigned for eight years only. Because of the longevity of his father he came to the throne at quite a mature age. Unlike his father he lacked sobriety of character and as his queen Hansapadika laments, was perhaps a refined sensualist. His endeavour to get the beautiful princess Malavika of Vidarbha is immortalised by Kalidasa in his *Malavikagnimitram*. It is also shown in this *kavya* how fond was he of dance, music and drama.

1. Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XXII, p. 48.

2. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XX, p. 57.

3. *ibid.* p. 391. According to the information given in Archaeological Survey of India (Annual Report) 1914-15, pp. 73 one such sacrifice was surely performed, but at a later date.

4. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 95.

5. *Malavikagnimitram*, Act V, Verse 20; B. M. Barua and Sinha, *Bharhut Inscriptions*, p. 3.

Agnimitra was succeeded by his sons Jyesthamitra and Vasumitra or Sumitra, of whom the former remained on the throne for seven years and the latter for ten years (C. 133-23 B. C.). A few coins of Jyesthamitra have been discovered.

According to the evidence of the *puranas* again, there were other Sunga kings, named Odraka, Andhraka or Bhadraka, Pulindak and Vajramitra. The Bhaga or Bhagavata of the *puranas* was doubtless no other than king Bhagabhadra of the Sunga dynasty. During his reign the Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila sent Dion's son Heliodorus, as his personal ambassador to the Sunga court at Vidisha. A part of this information is inscribed on a lofty Garuda Pillar, locally named as Khambaba. The pillar with the inscription was discovered near the village of Basnagar or Bes, that is ancient Vidisha. The epigraph records the erection of this pillar in the fourteenth year of king Bhagabhadra's reign¹ by Heliodorus, who himself was a Vaishnava, as a *Garuda-dhwaja* to a temple of Lord Vasudeva. The lithic record, doubtless, points to the existence of a temple of Bhagavata in near proximity. On numismatic ground Antialcidas is assigned a date somewhere in the middle of the second century B. C. The temple, mentioned above, must have thus existed in the same age.² The discovery of an elliptical temple of Vishnu just on the site of the later Bhagavata temple supplies the earliest archaeological evidence of Vaishnava culture. This temple is believed to have been existing in Vidisha at least in the 3rd century B. C.³ Another inscription in early Brahmi characters, dated in the 12th year of King Bhagvata, has been discovered on a fragment of a stone pillar at Vidisha. It records the setting up of a flagstaff in honour of Lord Vishnu, in the temple at Vidisha, by a private individual named Gautamiputra.⁴

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the earliest punch marked coins were also found in this region. By general belief the earliest coins of this type existed as early as in the 5th century B. C. At least the use of such coins can be established in Vidisha during the 4th century B. C.⁵

Bhagabhadra enjoyed a long reign of 32 years. He was succeeded by Devabhuti in c. 82 B. C. Bana tells us that a Sunga king, who was overfond of women's company, lost his life at the hands of the daughter of his female attendant, disguised as a queen. The murder was committed at the instance of the king's minister Vasudeva, a Kanva Brahman. This is corroborated by

1. *ibid.* p. 102, *Cambridge History of India*, Vol. I, p. 470.

2. Archaeological Survey of India, 1914-15, p. 66.

3. Lalit Kala, no. 13, pp. 23-25.

4. Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report) 1913-14, p. 190.

5. The Chronology of the Punch Marked Coins, (Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 5, 1966), p. 45.

the *puranas*, which speak of the overthrow of the last Sunga monarch Devabhuti. The *puranas* assign to Devabhuti a reign of ten years.¹

The Kanvas

The Magadhan throne was thus usurped by the Kanva king Vasudeva after murdering the last Sunga king Devabhuti. The Kanvas were four in number, viz., Vasumitra, Bhumimitra, Narayana and Susarmana. They ruled for 45 years only, (B. C. 75-30) and the last of them was overthrown by the Andhrabhritas or the Satavahanas. It is not quite unlikely that some weak successors of the Sungas were allowed to rule in Vidisha region, under the *de facto* authority of the Kanvas during their tenure.² This is inferred from the *puranas*, which state that the Andhras would destroy the Kanvas and what is left of the Sunga power.³

The Satavahanas and the Western Kshatrapas

The main current of Indian history from the first century B. C. to the second century A. D., was the long-drawn war between the Western Kshatrapas of the north-west and the Satavahanas of the south. Both these houses were vying with each other in their bid to extend their respective empires, at the cost of the other. Vidisha is taken to be the north-eastern part of the Satavahana empire, that had to change its allegiance between these two powers quite often.

As has been stated earlier, that according to the *puranas* a Satavahana ruler killed the last Kanva ruler and became the master of the Magadhan empire including Malwa, in the first century B. C. One Satakarni is believed to have conquered eastern Malwa about 72 B. C. Soon they were dispossessed by the Western Kshatrapas.

They styled themselves as Viceroys. The earlier of these Kshatrapas, belonged to the Kshaharata house, while the latter house is named the Kardamaka. Inscriptions and coins of both the houses have been unearthed in Vidisha. Bhumaka was the founder of the Kshaharata line, whose second member Nahapana extended his dominion upto Ajmer in the north and Nasik and Poona districts in the south, which had so long been under the possession of the Satavahanas. He assumed the title of *Rajana*.

According to the Nasik and Karla inscriptions of Nahapana's son-in-law, Saka Ushavadata, the former became the master of the whole of Malwa, the

1. *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 102-3.

2. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 99

3. *Dynasties of the Kali Age*, Ed. by F. E. Pargitar, pp. 30-34. Opinion is divided about the date. Some place him as early as in 235 or 230 B. C., while others place him in the second half of the first century B. C.

Narmada valley, northern Konkan, the western part of Vidisha and the whole of Maharashtra. The invasion effected a permanent lodgement in these territories, and almost obliterated the Satavahana power.¹ But his power was crushed by the Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satakarni who, according to the Poona and Nasik inscriptions of his mother Gautami Balashri, killed his northern opponent in Saka year 46 (A.D. 124-25) and thereby enriched his dominion with the possessions of Surashtra, Anupa, Akara (Eastern Malwa) and Avanti (Western Malwa)², etc. Satakarni is mentioned in an inscription at the southern gate of Sanchi, which records the gift of one of its architraves by Ananda, a foreman of the artisans of the Satavahana realm.³

Gautamiputra Satakarni seems to have lost Malwa to the Scythian rulers known as Kardamakas, because it is firmly asserted in the Junagadh Inscription dated A. D. 150 of Rudradaman of the Kardamaka dynasty, that his grandfather Chastana, with whom he was ruling jointly, became the lord of all those places which were once conquered by Gautamiputra Satakarni from Nahapana. According to Ptolemy also Chastana's capital was located at Ujjain (Ozene).⁴ It seems quite probable that a matrimonial alliance was made between these two warring dynasties, by marrying the daughter of Rudradaman to a son of Gautamiputra Satakarni. The name of the bridegroom seems to be Vasisthiputra Satakarni, a brother of Vasisthiputra Pulumayi. Coins of Pulumayi and his successor were discovered from Vidisha proper.⁵ Probably they were the last known southern rulers of this region. Several Kshatrapa coins belonging to Viradaman, Rudrasena II, etc. found in Vidisha, suggest a prolonged Kshatrapa occupation in this tract after the Satavahanas.⁶ Probably they could hold their sway till the 3rd century A. D., when one of the branches of the Naga dynasty established itself in Vidisha.

The Nagas

According to the *puranas* the Naga rulers flourished after the decline of the Kushanas at Vidisha. It has been surmised that the Naga house probably originated at Vidisha, from where they moved on to the north, establishing

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1. Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XIV, p. 3., *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 316.
 2. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 182; *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 212.
 3. Sir John Marshall, *The Monuments of Sanchi*, pp. 4-5.
 4. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, pp. 183 and 202.
 5. Journal of the Numismatic Society of India, Vol. XIV, Pt. I, pp. 1-3; Vol. XV, pt. I, p. 97; Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report), 1913-14, p. 213.
 6. Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report), 1913-14, p. 213.

branches at Padmavati, Kantipuri and Mathura.¹ Several copper coins of the Naga rulers have been brought to light in the excavations at Besnagar. One of these belongs to Ganapati and one to Bhima, the Naga rulers of Padmavati, indicating that the kings of Padmavati may have extended their influence over other Naga centres.²

The Vakatakas

At the same time, some portions of Vidisha District seem to have been held by the Vakatakas who, like the Sunga, Kanva and the Satavahana rulers, were Brahmanas of Vishnuvridha *gotra*. Although the question of the original home of the Vakatakas is not yet satisfactorily settled, there is, however, clear evidence to show that the centre of their early activity was in Vidarbha.³

The *puranas* mention Vindhyaśakti (c. A.D. 255-275), the founder of the dynasty, as a ruler of Vidisha. Vindhyaśakti seems to have enlarged his patrimony, comprising a district or two in Vidarbha, and extended its limits across the Vindhya range, so as to include a portion of Malwa. This may perhaps explain why the *puranas* mention Vindhyaśakti as the ruler of Vidisha.⁴

The Imperial and the Later Guptas

According to the Allahabad Pillar inscription, Samudragupta vanquished two Naga rulers, Ganapati and Nagasena along with the other rulers of Aryavartya, during his empire building conquests about the middle of the 4th century A.D. They were extirpated and crushed by him,⁵ and the region passed under the Gupta suzerainty. Samudragupta might have established friendly relations with the Naga rulers afterwards, for he married his son Chandragupta II to a Naga princess, Kubernaga.⁶ A child of this union was Prabhavati Gupta, who became the queen of Rudrasena II of the Vakataka house. Amongst the many tribes which Samudragupta subdued were the Sanakanikas and the Kakas, who are believed to have lived in the neighbourhood of Vidisha.⁷ Skandagupta seemed to have maintained cordial relations with them, for a Naga Chief, Sarva Naga was appointed a *Vishyapati* (provincial governor) over an *Antarvedi* district between the Ganges and the Yamuna and between Hardwar and Prayag in A.D. 466. Probably the Naga rulers main-

1. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 169.

2. Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report), 1913-14, p. 213; *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 170.

3. R. C. Majumdar and A. S. Altekar, *The Vakataka-Gupta Age*, p. 96.

4. *ibid.* p. 97.

5. Fleet, *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. III, p. 13.

6. R. C. Majumdar, H. C. Ray Chaudhuri and K. K. Datta, *An Advanced History of India*, pt. I, p. 149.

7. R. C. Majumdar and A. S. Altekar, *op. cit.*, p. 143.

tained their existence as feudatories under the Imperial Guptas. Chandragupta II left undisputed evidence of his sovereignty in Malwa in the shape of two epigraphs at the caves of the Udayagiri hills of Vidisha. These record the gift made by the feudatory ruler Maharaja Sanakanika during the reign of Chandragupta II in 82 Gupta Era (A.D. 401); and the excavation of a cave by his minister of peace and war, Virasena, who came to this place with the king himself.¹ Another inscription dated in 93 Gupta Era (c.A.D. 412-13), referring to the same emperor was found at Sanchi. It records the grant made by Amrakardeva, apparently an officer of Chandragupta to the *Arya Sangha* at the great *Vihara* of Kakanadabota² (Sanchi *Stupa*). It is said that Chandragupta had a prolonged stay at Malwa in order to vanquish the Saka ruler Rudradaman III of the Gujarat and Kathiawar Peninsula. He assumed the title Vikramaditya after the fashion of Vikramaditya of Ujjayini who expelled, as per legend, the first Saka conqueror of India more than 400 years before him. The poet Kalidasa, who probably adorned the court of this monarch with 8 other jewels (*ratna*), has immortalised the grandeur and beauty of Vidisha and its environs in his famous work *Meghaduta*.

The Kalachuris of Mahishmati

The early Kalachuris, who claimed their descent from the Haihaya king Kartaviryarjuna and grew powerful in northern Maharashtra, Gujarat and in parts of Malwa during the later part of the 6th century A. D. became the rulers of Vidisha. They used the Kalachuri Era. There are epigraphic records of three of these rulers, viz. Krishnaraja, his son Sankaragana and grandson Buddharaja. All of them were devotees of Siva. Krishnaraja was a powerful king, whose silver coins bearing his legend were found in Nasik, Bombay and the island of Salsette. His son Sankaragana issued one of his characters from his temporary residence at the victorious camp of Ujjayini.

Shortly after A. D. 595 Sankaragana was succeeded by his son Buddharaja. His Vadner grant dated K. E. 360 (A. D. 608) was issued from Vaidisa (Vidisha or Besnagar), in order to grant land in the Vatanagara bhoga (Vadner in the Chander *taluk* of Nasik district). It is not unlikely that East Malwa, of which Vidisha was the old capital, was conquered by one of these kings from Devagupta of the Later Gupta dynasty.³ The Chalukya king Manga'esa, whose known date ranges between c. A. D. 597-611 claims to have attacked the Kalachuri territory, put its king Buddharaja to flight and to have appropriated his fortunes.

1. *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum* Vol. III, pp. 25-36.

2. *ibid.* p. 29.

3. *The Classical Age*, p. 196.

Sometime after the 7th century A. D. the old town of Besnagar, on the western side of the Betwa, seems to have been completely devastated by a tremendous deluge, or by some tragic political event. The population deserted the site of the old town and travelled southwards to settle on the eastern bank of the river. The city, thus founded, was known as Bhilsa. When Alberuni visited India in the 11th century A. D. Bhilsa was also known as Mahabalistan. But the Muslim traveller had admitted that the Hindus had always called it Bhilsa ever since its foundation. Bhilsa is a corrupt form of Bhaillasvamin or Bhailasvamo, that was originally the name of an idol of the Sun god, enshrined and worshipped in a great temple of this place. An inscription from Vidisha, incised during the rule of king Krishna (probably the Rashtrakuta monarch Krishna III of A. D. 939-68), refers to this temple of Bhaillasvamin. As Minhaj-uddin's *Tabaqat-i-Nusiri* says, the great temple might have been destroyed by Sultan Iltutmish in A.D. 1233-34. Another inscription dated V. S. 935 (A. D. 878), mentioning the same temple of Bhaillasvamin of Bhilsa, was found at Vidisha in 1952-53.¹ How long the Chalukyas could retain their hold on the District is not known. Its history too remained obscure for a considerably long time, though it is not entirely unlikely that the Gurjara-Pratihars, who reigned over Malwa for a long time had some sway over this region. During the 10th century A. D., however, it was incorporated in the Chandella empire. It is said that the most powerful monarch of this family, namely, Dhanga (A. D. 954-1002) extended his kingdom upto the Jamuna (Kalindi) in the north, Gwalior (Gopa mountain) in the north-west and Bhasvat on the river Malwa (Bhilsa or Vidisha on the Betwa).² The Chandella kingdom under Dhanga thus took the shape of almost a triangle, with Gwalior fort forming the vertical point and an irregular line drawn from Vidisha to the confluence of the Ganges and the Jamuna forming the base of the triangle.³

Paramaras

The Chandelias were ousted from Malwa by the Paramara king Siyaka II, whose known date is A. D. 972. He founded an independent kingdom bounded by the Tapti on the south, modern Jhalawar on the north, Vidisha on the east and Sabarmati on the west.⁴ His son Munja Vakpatiraja II extended his father's territory further and further till he was defeated and killed by Taila II of the Chalukya house, in A. D. 993. All his territories upto the banks of the Narmada were annexed to the victor's kingdom. Sindhuraja, son of the Paramara King Siyaka defeated the Chalukya monarch and recovered the lost

1. *Epigraphia India* Vol. XXX, pt. VI, pp. 210-11.

2. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. I, p. 129; *The Age of Imperial Kanauj*, p. 84; R. C. Majumdar, *Ancient India*, p. 290.

3. S. K. Mitra, *The Early Rulers of Khajuraho*, pp. 57, 60.

4. R. C. Majumdar, *Ancient India*, p. 295.

territories. Son and successor of Sindhuraja was Bhoja Deva, the illustrious king of Malwa. He came to the throne about 1000 A. D. and ruled for more than half a century. Inscriptions of his reign, however, bear dates from A. D. 1020 to 1047. His kingdom included an area now represented by Chittor, Banswara, Dungarpur, Vidisha, Khandesh, Konkan, and upper course of the Godavari¹ At the end of Bhoja's life when his kingdom was attacked simultaneously by the Chaulukya king Bhima and Kalachuri monarch Gangeyadeva from west and east both, Vidisha might have been overrun by the Chedi force.

During the reign of Bhoja's successor Jayasimha Malwa was again occupied by king Somesvara II of the Chalukya dynasty, with his ally king Karna of the Chaulukya house of Gujarat. Bhoja's cousin or brother, Udayaditya came to the throne probably before the year A.D. 1080 and reigned till 1086. The eastern boundary of his kingdom extended upto Vidisha where he built the famous Nilkanthesvar temple at Udaypur.² The next king Lakshman seems to have retained Vidisha, since he was a great king and a conqueror. What happened to this region during the fight of the next Paramara king Naravarman (A. D. 1094) with the Chaulukya ruler Jayasimha Siddharaja is not known. The next king Yasovarman was defeated by him and the whole of Malwa was annexed to his kingdom about A. D. 1135.

Prior to this defeat the Chandella king Madan Varman (A. D. 1129-1163) forcibly occupied the Vidisha region from Yasovarman's possession. The Chandella reoccupation of the Vidisha region is proved by the fact that Madan Varman, when in residence near Vidisha, issued a grant bestowing ten ploughs of land in the Sudali Visaya (located in Vidisha) to Brahmana Rahul Sharma³.

But the region was snatched away by the Chaulukya ruler Yasovarman's son, Jayavarman. He also lost Malwa to Chalukya king Jagadekamella and Hoyasala king Narasimha, who placed one Ballala on the throne. Jayasimha Siddharaja's son, Kumarapala, dethroned Ballala and incorporated the whole of Malwa upto Vidisha into his kingdom. Since then the District remained part of Gujarat for many years. There is evidence to show that King Devapala, who reigned between A. D. 1218-1232 had his territories bounded by Broach and Vidisha towards west and east. Who snatched away the Vidisha region from the Chaulukya possessions is not known, though it is surmised that he may be Vindhyavarman who defeated Mularaja II sometime in A. D. 1233.

1. *The Struggle for Empire*, p. 66.

2. *ibid.* p. 68.

3. *Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XVI, pp. 201-10, S. K. Mitra, *op. cit.*, pp. 8, 114, 150 and 163.

It is worthwhile to give a brief resume of history of Sironj area during this period. The town of Sironj and its surroundings were ruled by the Sengar Rajputs in the beginning of the 12th century. Shankar Singh, a Sengar Rajput, had occupied the town of Sironj in about A. D. 1103. He is also said to have developed this place, that was known as Sengraj, corrupted to Sironj. In the year A. D. 1260 Guldeo Rajput, however, defeated them and Sironj became an integral part of the province of Malwa.¹

Vidisha (Bhilsa) first appears in the Muslim writings in Al Beruni's description of India, where it is said to be in Malwa, ten *farsakh* distant from Ujjain.² In 1234 Iltutmish attacked and sacked Bhilsa during his Malwa campaign. He is also said to have destroyed the great idol temple, *Viiay Mandir*, which had taken three hundred years to build. He took possession of Bhilsa and proceeded towards Ujjain. Muslims, however, could not establish their authority over the region till the conquest of Mandu by Ala-ud-din Khalji in November, 1305 A. D., when Malwa was included as a province of the Delhi Sultanate.³

During the reign of Mahlak Deva, the last Paramara ruler of Malwa, Ala-ud-din Khalji invaded Malwa in 1293 A. D., captured the town of Bhilsa, along with some bronze idols, and sent them in carts with a variety of rich booty as presents to the Sultan. For having sent the spoils of Bhilsa to the Sultan, Ala-ud-din was made *Ariz-i-Mamalik* of the territory of Oudh, in addition to that of Karra.⁴

Later, Malwa was one of the twenty-three provinces of the vast empire of Muhammad Bin Tughluq. He appointed Aziz Himar as governor of Malwa.⁵

Sultans of Malwa

Ghuri Dynasty

Malwa continued to be a Tughluq province till about 1401 A. D., when Dilawar Khan Ghuri, the governor of Malwa, declared himself independent and established the Kingdom of Malwa.⁶ Dilawar Khan was succeeded, in 1405 A. D., by his son Alp Khan, under the title of Hushang Shah.⁷ Hushang Shah extended his conquests as far as Gwalior and placed his protegee on the throne of Kalpi.⁸ These facts go to indicate that the Bhilsa

1. *ibid.* p. 4.

2. *Alberuni's India*, Ed. by E. C. Sachau, Vol. I, p. 202; Elliot & Dowson, *History of India as told by its own Historians*, Vol. I, p. 59.

3. *The Struggle for Empire*, pp. 71-72; K. S. Lal, *History of the Khaljis*, p. 114.

4. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 148, 543. (The date of the reduction of Bhilsa varies from 1290 to 1293 A. D.)

5. Mahdi Husain, *Tughluq Dynasty*, pp. 106-7; *The Delhi Sultanate*, p. 79.

6. *Tarikh-i-Firishita*, Tr. by Briggs, Vol. IV, p. 170.

7. *The Delhi Sultanate*, p. 173.

8. U. N. Day, *Medieval Malwa*, pp. 50-55.

region was a part of the kingdom of Malwa. After Hushang Shah's death in 1435 A.D., his son Gazni Khan succeeded him under the name of Muhammad Shah. He was, however, soon dethroned by his Wazir, Mahmud Khan Khalji, who established a new dynasty which ruled over Malwa for about a century.¹

Khalji Dynasty

The Khalji rule in Malwa continued till the year 1531 A. D. The last Khalji ruler of Malwa, Mahmud Shah II, ascended the throne with the help of a Rajput Chief whom he gave the title of Medini Rai.² The Rajputs, under their leader Medini Rai, soon became a predominant factor in the politics of the State and made their influence felt. Mahmud, however, soon felt restive under the rising influence of the Rajputs. When Mahmud found himself to be too weak to check the hegemony of the Rajputs, he fled to Gujarat in 1517 A. D.³

Soon after Mahmud defeated Medini Rai with the aid of an auxiliary force from Muzaffar Shah, the king of Gujarat. Medini Rai then sought help from Rana Sanga of Mewar and their combined army defeated the Sultan near Mandu. Mahmud was also taken prisoner but soon set free by Rana Sanga, who allowed him to continue his control over Mandu and a part of the neighbouring territory. The Rana bestowed, in 1518 A. D., a large territory including, it seems, Bhilsa on Medini Rai. The latter seems to have passed on the Bhilsa territory to Salhadi, one of his generals.⁴

Taking advantage of the anarchy and unsettled conditions in Malwa, Salhadi captured the territory extending from Sarangpur to Raisen, which was contiguous to his own *jagir* of Bhilsa. Salhadi, father of Puranmal, is variously styled, a Gahlot, a Tanwar and a Purabiya by different authorities.⁵ He was a local chief of considerable importance holding a large tract of the Malwa province. This is corroborated by Babur who writes in his *Memoirs* that, when he entered India (1527 A. D.) Bhilsa was held by Salhadi, (Salahuddin as he calls him), who had acquired the possession of Vidisha (Bhilsa), Sarangpur and other places during the decline of the Khalji dynasty of Malwa.⁶

1. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 196.

2. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III, p. 366.

3. *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, V. S. 2016, Nos. 3-4, p. 167.

4. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, pp. 260-2; *The Delhi Sultanate*, pp. 340-41; K. R. Qanungo, *Sher Shah and his Times*, p. 327; *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, V. S. 2016, Nos. 3-4, p. 167; Khwajah Nizamuddin Ahmad, *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Tr. by B. De, Vol. III, pp. 499-501, 505, 547.

5. Elliot and Dowson, op. cit., Vol. IV, pp. 378, 391, 397.

6. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 264; Leyden and Erskine, *Memoirs of Babur*, p. 378.

Bahadur Shah of Gujarat

In the year 1531 Malwa was invaded by Bahadur Shah of Gujarat and annexed to his kingdom.¹ He appointed Mallu Khan as the governor of the province. Thus, in the early years of Bahadur Shah's reign, Malwa formed a part of the Gujarat kingdom and the Khalji dynasty of Malwa vanished for ever.² Bahadur Shah, however, made over *sarkars* of Ujjain and Sarangpur, and the fort of Raisen, as also perhaps Bhilsa and Ashta, to Salhadi in *jagir*.³ His son Bhupat remained at Mandu with Bahadur Shah. Later on, however, Bahadur Shah became suspicious of Salhadi's complicity with Rana Ratan Singh of Mewar and decided to attack him on the plea that he had enslaved Muslim women and kept them in his harem.⁴

In the meanwhile, Salhadi was arrested on 27 December, 1531 at Dhar, where he had gone to meet Bahadur Shah. Salhadi's son Bhupat, who had left the court earlier, went away to Chittor in order to seek the Rana's help. Pursuing Bhupat, Bahadur Shah reached Bhilsa via Sarangpur. He stayed for a few days at Bhilsa and consolidated his authority over the territory. During his stay here Bahadur Shah sacked the city, destroyed a number of temples and built some mosques. He left Bhilsa on 16 January, 1532 and reached Raisen the following day.⁵

Raisen fort, held by Salhadi's brother Laxman Sen, was besieged by the Gujarat troops for a long time. Salhadi, who had reached Raisen as a prisoner in Bahadur Shah's camp, seeing that the fort must fall, offered to arrange for the surrender of the fort and to become a Muslim if the garrison were spared. He then became a Muslim, assuming a Muslim name Salah-ud-din.⁶

Later, Salhadi and Laxman Sen fell fighting along with a number of brave Rajput soldiers, on 6 May, 1532. After the fall of the Raisen fort Bahadur Shah put Raisen fort, Bhilsa, Chanderi and the surrounding territory under the governorship of Sultan Alam Khan Lodi, a son of Bahlol Lodi.⁷ Bahadur Shah maintained the attitude of hostility and menace with the Mughals till he was all but crushed by Humayun during his Gujarat campaign (1533-36 A.D.).⁸

1. Ishwari Prasad, *The Life and Times of Humayun*, p. 62.

2. *The Delhi Sultanate*, p. 341.

3. *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, tr. by B. De, Vol. III, p. 615; *Bhopal State Gazetteer*, 1908, p. 112.

4. Ishwari Prasad, op. cit., p. 62; *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III p. 327.

5. *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. III, p. 358-59; *Tarikh-i-Firishia*, Vol. IV, p. 118; *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, V. S. 2016, Nos. 3-4, p. 178 and f.n.

6. *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, V. S. 2016, Nos. 3-4, p. 179.

7. For details of the siege of Raisen, see Raghubir Singh's article in *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, V. S. 2016, Nos. 3-4.

8. K. R. Qanungo, op. cit., p. 328 and f.n.

Qadir Shah

After the death of Bahadur Shah (Feb. 13, 1537), Mallu Khan stepped into the shoes of his master, assumed the title of Qadir Shah and became the Sultan of Malwa. He even struck coins in his own name.¹ Gujarat recognised Qadir Shah as the Sultan of Malwa, and Imad-ul-Mulk, the Prime Minister of Gujarat, sent a royal umbrella and a die for coinage (Sikkah) to Mandu, the capital of Malwa.²

Qadir Shah consolidated his kingdom and obtained the local support of the Rajput and Muslim feudatories of the old Khalji regime, as he anticipated an eventual conflict with the Emperor of Delhi. Accordingly, he invited back to Malwa the family of the deceased Salhadi, which had settled in Mewar.³ Puranmal, the younger brother of Raja Bhupat (son of Salhadi) and Bhupat's minor son Pratap with their dependents came to Malwa. Bhupat's son was made the Chief of Raisen with Puranmal as his guardian and the virtual ruler. Qadir Shah appears to have given a large tract of eastern Malwa including, perhaps, Bhilsa to Puranmal and thus won him over as a loyal vassal and ally.⁴

Malwa remained in the possession of Qadir Shah till Sher Shah invaded the province in February, 1542. Qadir Shah's surrender to Sher Shah left the chiefs of Malwa no other alternative but to offer submission to him.⁵ Qadir Shah, however, escaped and fled to Gujarat with all his dependents.⁶ On Qadir Shah's escape, Sher Shah occupied Mandu and Dhar without a fight.⁷ He then made fresh administrative arrangements and appointed Shujaat Khan over Handia and Satwas and Haji Khan and Junaid Khan over Mandu and Dhar.⁸ Muin Khan and Raja Bhopal of Maheshwar offered submission and were taken into service along with their troops and confirmed in jagirs on usual terms.⁹ After making these arrangements in Malwa, Sher Shah turned north and advanced towards the fort of Ranthambhor. Thus, for the second time Malwa lost its freedom and except for Raisen, Bhilsa and Chanderi the whole of Malwa was occupied by the Afghan officers. Raisen, Bhilsa and Chanderi, however, continued to be under Puranmal for some time more.

1. *Tarikh-i-Firishia*, Vol. IV, p. 270.

2. K. R. Qanungo, op. cit., p. 328.

3. Ibid, pp. 328-29; U. N. Day, *Medieval Malwa*, pp. 329-331.

4. K. R. Qanungo, op. cit., pp. 329-30.

5. ibid, p. 335.

6. *Tarikh-i-Firishia*, Vol. IV, p. 272.

7. K. R. Qanungo, op. cit., p. 335.

8. U. N. Day, op. cit., p. 334.

9. K. R. Qanungo, op. cit., pp. 335-36.

Sher Shah had confirmed Puranmal in all his existing territories and was content with the submission of the Chief in 1542 A. D. But he knew it well that unless he captured the fort of Raisen and crushed the power of the Rajputs in eastern Malwa, his hold over the province would not last long.¹ He, therefore, soon sent Prince Jalal Khan to open a campaign against Puranmal. Jalal Khan laid the siege of Chanderi in January, 1543 A. D. and captured it after much resistance.²

The Rajputs fought for every inch of ground against the Afghans, and Jalal Khan's army had to spend three months to occupy 120 miles of territory between Chanderi and Bhilsa. Sher Shah himself took over the command of the army at Bhilsa in the beginning of April, 1543.³ He then proceeded towards the mighty fort of Raisen, about 14 miles south of Bhilsa and 29 miles to the east of the modern city of Bhopal. Abbas Khan Sherwani gives a full and vivid account of the siege of the fort in his famous work *Tarikh-i-Sher-Shahi*.⁴ Ultimately Sher Shah captured the fort with treachery and garrisoned it with a large force, including 1,000 artillery.⁵

After the conquest of Raisen Sher Shah put Shujaat Khan in over-all charge of Malwa. He was, however, removed temporarily from this post by Islam Shah, son and successor of Sher Shah. Islam Shah then appointed Isa Khan as the governor of Malwa. But soon Shujaat Khan was pardoned by Islam Shah and was given in *Jagir* the territory comprising Sarangpur, Raisen and Vidisha (Bhilsa).⁶ But Mubariz Khan, successor of Islam Shah, again appointed Shujaat Khan the governor of the province. Shujaat Khan then made fresh arrangements for the administration of the province and placed Raisen and Bhilsa in charge of his youngest son, Mustafa Khan.⁷

Shujaat Khan managed the government well for twelve years⁸ and Malwa witnessed peace under him. Prior to his death (1555 A. D.) Humayun, on his return from Persia, had recovered the throne of Delhi. Shujaat Khan, therefore, like other chiefs of the empire, declared himself independent.⁹

1. U. N. Day, *op. cit.*, p. 335.

2. K. R. Qanungo, *op. cit.*, pp. 382-385.

3. *ibid.* p. 386.

4. Elliot and Dowson, *op. cit.*, Vol. IV, pp. 397-403.

5. U. N. Day, *op. cit.*, 336; K. R. Qanungo, *op. cit.*, pp. 388-91.

6. U. N. Day, *op. cit.*, p. 336.

7. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 275; *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, tr. by B. De, Vol. III, p. 628.

8. *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. III, p. 628.

9. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. III, p. 371; *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 275.

Baz Bahadur

After the death of Shujaat Khan, his eldest son, Bayazid, better known as Baz Bahadur, succeeded in the scramble for power among his brothers.¹ He, however, tried to pacify his brothers by giving them *jagirs* in different parts of the province. Malik Mustafa was again put in charge of Raisen and Bhilsa along with adjacent *mahals*.²

The arrangement thus settled was a fair one, and all his brothers seemed to have been satisfied with it. But Bayazid suddenly marched towards Ujjain and killed his brother, Daulat Khan, treacherously. He then assumed the royal authority and took the title of Baz Bahadur Shah³ and advanced towards Raisen. Malik Mustafa, after sustaining several military actions, was eventually defeated and his army dispersed. He fled from Malwa, leaving Baz Bahadur to take possession of the forts of Raisen and Bhilsa. Thus the two forts along with the territory of the present districts of Raisen and Vidisha were brought under the direct control of Baz Bahadur, the Sultan of Malwa, who entrusted the government of these territories to his own men.⁴

The Mughals

Akbar, in the sixth year of his reign, thought of the conquest of adjacent territories. Accordingly armies were despatched towards Malwa in March, 1561.⁵ The overall command of the army was given to Adham Khan,⁶ who defeated Baz Bahadur near Sarangpur and occupied the place. After some time Adham Khan was recalled from Malwa and Pir Muhammad Khan was given the charge of the province.⁷ He also defeated Baz Bahadur near Awas and drove him away. But Baz Bahadur, with the assistance of Mubarak II of Khandesh and Tufal Khan of Berar, soon after fell upon Pir Muhammad, dispersed his troops and obliged him to flee towards Mandu.⁸ He was hotly pursued by Baz Bahadur and as Pir Muhammad was trying to cross the river Narmada, his horse was overturned by a camel in the river and he was drowned.⁹ The pursuit continued and the Mughal army was forced to flee to Agra. Thus very soon Baz Bahadur once again recovered Malwa.¹⁰

1. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 276.

2. *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. III, p. 629.

3. *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 276.

4. *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. III, p. 629; *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, pp. 276-77.

5. Abul Fazl, *The Akbarnama*, Tr. by H. Beveridge, Vol. III, pp. 210-22.

6. *ibid.* Vol. II, p. 208; *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 278.

7. *The Akbarnama*, Vol. II, p. 235; *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 278.

8. *The Cambridge History of India*, Vol. IV, p. 82.

9. Al-Badaoni, *Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh*, Tr. by W. H. Lowe, Vol. II, p. 47.

10. Mutamid Khan, *Iqbal Nama-i-Jahangiri*, p. 177.

Akbar again sent Abdullah Khan Uzbek with a Large force to conquer the territory. Ultimately Baz Bahadur submitted to the Mughal Emperor, who conferred on him a *mansab* of 1000, which was later increased to 2000.¹

Abdullah Khan Uzbek occupied Malwa and set up his headquarters at Mandu. The Imperial officers were sent to all the important centres to establish peace. Malwa was incorporated as a *Subah* in the Mughal Empire. Thus, the independent kingdom of Malwa came to an end in 1562 A.D.²

When Akbar divided his empire into administrative divisions, the territory of the present Vidisha District was included in the *Sarkars* of Raisen and Chanderi of the *Subah* of Malwa. Bhilsa (Vidisha) was the headquarters of a *mahal* of Raisen *Sarkar*, and paid a revenue of 6,094,970 *Dams*. It also contributed 480 horsemen and 1000 Infantry to the Imperial army. Sironj was then the headquarters of a *mahal* of Chanderi *Sarkar* and paid a revenue of 11,065,765 *Dams*, while it contributed 100 horsemen and 2,500 infantry to the Imperial army.³ Copper coins were struck at the mint of this place. Akbar granted Sironj in *jagir* to Gharib Das, Khichi Chauhan of Raghugarh, as a reward for his services.⁴ Bhilsa then formed a part of the *ikta* (*jagir*) of Mirza Khan-i-Khanan. It was also a mint town of the *Subah*. Tal Baroda, perhaps a village in Sironj Tahsil of the District, was the headquarters of a *mahal* in Chanderi *Sarkar*. It paid a revenue of 1,090,000 *Dams* and contributed 60 horsemen and 3,000 infantry to the Mughal army.⁵

The religious intolerance of Aurangzeb, however, led to the destruction of a number of temples of Bhilsa in 1682, including the fine Vijay Mandir of the town. At the same time Aurangzeb erected a mosque on the site of the former temple. He renamed the town as Alamgirpur. The new name, never coming into general use, was used in official documents only.⁶ Taking advantage of chaotic conditions in the Mughal empire, following the death of Aurangzeb, Dost Muhammad Khan (1708 to 1728 A.D.), an Afghan adventurer, set up an independent principality at Bhopal. After consolidating his position, he sent a strong force under his brother Sher Muhammad Khan against Vidisha (Bhilsa). The battle between the two armies took place between the villages of Jamaldi and Bagri, near Vidisha. In a fierce fight that ensued Sher Muhammad

1. *The Akbarnama*, Vol. II, pp. 260-61; *Tarikh-i-Firishta*, Vol. IV, p. 279; *The Tabaqat-i-Akbari*, Vol. III, pp. 631-32.

2. *The Akbarnama*, Vol. II, p. 261; V. A. Smith, *Akbar the Great Mogul*, p. 43.

3. Abul Fazl, *Ain-i-Akbari*, tr. by H. S. Jarrett, Vol. II, pp. 210 and 213.

4. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Rajputana, p. 311.

5. *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. II, p. 212; *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 206.

6. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, pp. 204 and 206.

was killed by the Mewati Chief of Doraha and the Bhopal force was thrown into confusion.

Dost Muhammad Khan who was hiding behind the hill of Bagri, rushed forward, surrounded Muhammad Faruk, the Governor of Vidisha, and attacked and killed him. Mounting on Muhammad Faruk's elephant, Dost Muhammad then marched to Vidisha, forcing the drummers to sound the drums. There he was taken for Muhammad Faruk returning victorious and was admitted to the fort. Having taken possession of the fort by fraud rather than by force he made himself master of Gyaraspur and the surrounding territories. Later, seeing the rising power of Dost Muhammad, the Nawab of Kurwai, namely, Diler Khan, came to pay him a complementary visit. The meeting however resulted in a quarrel, leading to the death of Diler Khan in A. H. 1134 (1722 A. D.).

The Marathas

On the decline of the Mughal rule in India, the Marathas tried to extend their sway over the province of Malwa in 18th century. Sawai Jai Singh of Jaipur, then Governor of Malwa, granted Bhilsa to the Nawab of Bhopal, but it soon after passed into the possession of the Marathas.¹ By the end of May, 1736 A.D. Baji Rao Peshwa was, at the instance of Jai Singh made the Deputy Governor of Malwa.² Jai Singh, however, continued to be the nominal Governor of Malwa. The Peshwa anxiously waited at Sironj till the beginning of June for the reply of the Mughal Emperor to his demands. Immediately on receipt of the reply he started for the Deccan. Thus, Vidisha passed under the administrative control of the Marathas.

In January, 1737 the Peshwa made a move to realize the dues from Vidisha. Accordingly, the two brothers Tukoji and Jeevaji Pawar, founders, respectively, of the senior and junior branches of the House of Dewas, besieged Vidisha,³ and took it after a siege of a fortnight on 11 January, 1737 and realized the dues.⁴ The Peshwa then moved on to Bundelkhand, reaching Vidisha on 14 January, 1737.⁵

With the increasing activity and the expansion of the Maratha power, the Nizam was summoned to Delhi to meet the situation. When he reached Sironj on May 10 the Maratha agents in the town left the place. The Nizam stopped at Sironj until May 29, and tried to sense the movements of Baji Rao,

1. *ibid.* p. 206.

2. Raghbir Singh, *Malwa in Transition*, p. 243.

3. *Selections from Peshwa Daftar*, Vol. XV, p. 4.

4. Raghbir Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 248.

5. *Selections from Peshwa Daftar*, Vol. XXX, p. 147; Vol. XV, pp. 4 and 104.

who was then on his way back to Deccan. While returning from the north Pilaji Jadhav met the Nizam on May 28, and the latter duly honoured him. At the request of the Nizam, Pilaji escorted the army of Nizam for some marches towards Gwalior-Delhi. On reaching Delhi in July, 1737, the Nizam assured the Mughal Emperor that he would be able to stop the Marathas from advancing beyond the Narmada. In return, the Mughal Emperor promised to reward him with five *subahs* and one crore of rupees. At the same time, the Nizam's eldest son was appointed the Governor of Malwa, removing Jai Singh from the Governorship and Baji Rao from the Deputy Governorship of Malwa.

With the aim of driving out the Marathas, the Nizam left Delhi with a large army, reaching Sironj in early December, 1737.¹ On December 13, he reached Bhopal, in the vicinity of which the Peshwa was encamping. The Peshwa cleverly enforced a strict blockade of the Nizam's forces at Bhopal. Reduced to a hopeless plight, the Nizam made a bid to escape. But he was so much harassed by the pursuing Maratha troops, that he had to conclude peace on 6 January, 1738 at Doraha Sarai. According to the terms of the treaty the Nizam accepted the Maratha domination in Malwa and sovereignty of the territories between the Narmada and the Chambal. The treaty was however ratified in the year 1741 only.²

Although the Peshwa obtained from the Emperor a formal grant of the *subahs* of Malwa and Bundelkhand as early as 1743 A.D., it took him full five years to consolidate his possessions and regularise his administration.³ The Maratha forces attacked and took the fort of Vidisha (Bhilsa) in March, 1745.⁴ Vidisha remained with the Marathas until 1753, when the Peshwa renewed the settlement of lands with Bhopal State, which obtained possession of the fort of Bhilsa.⁵ But it seems that the Marathas succeeded in reoccupying it soon after.

Pilaji Jadhav, his son Satvoji Jadhav and later, Naro Shankar were put in charge of eastern Malwa, which included the tract from Narwar down to Sironj. The dues from Bhopal were also to be realized by these officers, who generally resided at Sironj.⁶

Taking advantage of Ahmad Shah Abdal's first invasion of Hindustan (1757 A.D.) which engaged the Marathas, the Bhopal army occupied Vidisha in early 1757 A.D., which was then, as stated earlier, in possession of the

1. Raghbir Singh, op. cit., p. 254.

2. *ibid.* p. 261.

3. Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. 27, p. 1 (introductory)

4. *ibid.* Vol. XXI, pp. 5-6.

5. Raghbir Singh, op. cit., p. 303-304.

6. *ibid.* p. 324.

Marathas.¹ At that time Faiz Muhammad Khan (1742-1777 A.D.) was the ruler of Bhopal.

Early in 1759, the north-western frontier of India was threatened by a fresh invasion of Ahmad Shah Abdali. With his in-roads into India, the eyes of the Maratha statesmen were fixed upon the affairs at Delhi, and vast preparations were made to drive Abdali out of India.

The Maratha army, led by Sadashiv Rao Bhau, started northwards in March, 1760. It crossed the Narmada at Handia on 12 April and reached Sironj by way of Sehore and Berasia on 6 May, 1760.² Here the Bhau stayed for some days in order to cash the *hundis* received from the Peshwa, payable at Ujjain and Indore. When the Bhau marched beyond Sironj through the Ahirwada country, the Ahirs rose in his rear and the roads became unsafe for traffic and communications.³

The Maratha army suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Abdali on 14 January, 1761. The possession of Vidisha tract then several times passed in quick succession between the Marathas and the Bhopal State. The Marathas reoccupied it sometime before 1761, for when Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao marched into Malwa, in January, 1761, he stayed at Vidisha.⁴ It was here that he intercepted on the 24th of that month a banker's letter from Delhi, giving the fatal news of the battle of Panipat. He stayed at Vidisha till February, and then marched by way of Sironj to Pachhar (32 miles north of Sironj), hoping against hope that the rumours of the escape of the Bhau and other chiefs would come true, but in vain.⁵

The Maratha defeat at Panipat rudely shook the Maratha power in Malwa and a reaction against their domination began in the province. The fort of Vidisha (Bhilsa) seems to have been reoccupied by the Nawab of Bhopal. Nawab Izzat Khan of Kurwai also joined hands against the Marathas. The Peshwa sent Gopal Rao and Janoji Bhonsle to put down the troubles. Gopal Rao was able to restore order temporarily by May, 1761.⁶ No sooner did he leave Malwa, the Ahirs rose again. Ahirs were joined by Izzat Khan of Kurwai and the Khichis. In December, 1761, the Maratha Agent Naro Shankar asked his friend Vishwas Rao to go to Sironj and meet Izzat Khan and Govind Kalyan to friend them. Govind Kalyan was ordered by the Peshwa to take up the

1. Selections from the Peshwa Daftar, Vol. XXVII, No. 145.

2. *ibid.* p. 307.

3. *ibid.* Selections from Peshwa Daftar, Vol. II, p. 140-41.

4. It is possible that Vidisha was occupied by Sadashiv Rao Bhau in April 1760, when he marched against Ahmad Shah Abdali.

5. Raghubir Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 308.

6. *ibid.* p. 312.

affairs of Sironj and Ahirwada, to conciliate the zamindars, to bring under his control all the outposts of the place and to manage the territory. He was further ordered to recover the fort of Vidisha (Bhilsa), recently taken by the Nawab of Bhopal. Naro Shankar also instructed Govind Kalyan to send to Poona the revenue collections from Sironj and Ahirwada territories.¹ By the year 1765 the Maratha's hold on the tract was well established. The affairs of Vidisha came in Sindhia's hands by the year 1775 and since then it formed part of the former princely Gwalior State.²

First Anglo-Maratha War

In the course of the First Anglo-Maratha war, the Vidisha tract also became a theatre of war. The English captured the fort of Gwalior, by strategem,³ on August 4, 1780. The loss of Gwalior, gave a severe blow to the Maratha power in general and to Mahadaji's prestige in particular. By the end of the year 1780 the English proceeded by rapid marches and were already on the plains of Sironj, waiting to be reinforced by considerable detachment.⁴

The armies of the East India Company subsequently started moving towards Bhopal. Mahadaji quickly despatched troops to meet them. The English pressure on Malwa, however, continued to gather momentum. They reached Shivpuri by the end of November, 1780, from where they moved towards Sironj. Mahadaji Sindhia meanwhile sent Sivaji Vithal Pawar and Balwant Rao Dhondeeva to meet them and himself proceeded in that direction⁵.

As soon as Mahadaji came to know that the English were moving towards the plains of Sironj, he took command of the army in his own hands and proceeded, by rapid marches, to meet them. In his very first encounter with the English, a couple of miles south of the town of Sironj, he defeated them and forced them to change their camping ground.⁶ He followed it up by encircling them, and was full of hope that he would be able to repulse them completely from Malwa. The English were finally forced to take shelter inside the town, but Mahadaji's forces continued battering at its walls for several days till, in the early hours of 7th March, the British started retreating. The Marathas chased them as far as Gopalpur, 16 miles north of Chanderi, and

1. *ibid.* pp. 12-13, Selections from Peshwa Daftar, Vol. XXIX, p. 38 and Vol. XXXIX, p. 2.

2. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 206.

3. *East India Military Calendar*, 182, Pt. II, p. 95.

4. Historical Papers relating to Mahadaji Sindhia, Nos. 126 and 127, Mahadaji's letter, 1st December, 1780.

5. S. P. Verma, *A Study in Maratha Diplomacy*, p. 240.

6. *ibid.* 244.

killed about three hundred English and Turk horsemen, having plundered their carts carrying ammunitions and rifles, and camels and horses.¹

The English were finally compelled to take shelter at Kolaras, 36 *Kos* from Gwalior near Shivpuri. Attempts of the Marathas failed to expel them. Ultimately, the Anglo-Maratha war came to an end by the Treaty of Salbai, signed on 17 May, 1782. The treaty went in favour of the Marathas and gave them a respite for twenty years.

We may pause here to describe historical events of different parts of the District. As stated before, by the year 1775 Vidisha was under the authority of Mahadaji Sindhia. Kurwai State including Basoda and Muhammadgarh came into being in the year 1713, when Muhammad Diler Khan, an Afghan adventurer from Tirah, belonging to the Feroze Khel Clan, seized Kurwai and the surrounding villages. Later, in return for certain services he was granted 31 *parganas* by the Mughal Emperor.² The states of Basoda and Muhammadgarh were being held in 1753 by Muhammad Ahsanullah Khan, the brother of Izzat Khan the Nawab of Kurwai. Izzat Khan had made over these tracts to his brother. Later Ahsanullah Khan divided the two *parganas* between his two sons, Bakaullah Khan and Muhammad Khan the latter founding the town and State of Muhammadgarh.³ The Nawab of Kurwai had helped Col. Goddard in his march through Bundelkhand in 1778 A.D. Thus, he had become an object of the Maratha persecution. The Pathari State, which was originally a Hindu State, was annexed in 1742 A.D. by Yar Muhammad Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal. Subsequently it passed to Murid Muhammad Khan, the great grandson of Dost Muhammad Khan the founder of Bhopal State. Thereafter Sindhia held sway over the territory. In 1794, the tract was granted in perpetuity to Hidar Muhammad Khan, son of Murid Muhammad Khan, in exchange for his possession in Raghtgarh.⁴ So far as the Sironj tract is concerned, it was under Baji Rao till 1753 A.D.⁵ Then it passed on to Malhar Rao Holkar.⁶ Thereafter it was under Ahilya Bai and Tukoji upto 1796.⁷

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1. Historical Papers relating to Mahadaji Sindhia, Nos. 137-38; Mahadaji's letters to Nana, 8 March, 1781; No. 131, Sadashiva Dinkar's letter to Nana, 8 March 1781.
 2. Kurwai State Administration Report, 1909-10, p. 1.
 3. Muhammadgarh Administration Report, 1910-11, p. 1.
 4. Pathari State Administration Report, 1908-09, p. 1; *Bhopal State Gazetteer*, p. 13.
 5. Bhargav, *Sironj Ka Itihasa*, p. 55.
 6. *ibid.* p. 53.
 7. *ibid.* p. 54.

Thus constituted by the majority of petty chiefships, the District was threatened by the inroads of the Pindaris. In 1798 Amir Khan Pindari Sironj was assigned by Jaswant Rao Holkar to his ally Amir Khan Pindari.¹ The British Government was eager to prevent Amir Khan from securing a foothold in or near the Bhonslas' territories in the north because of two important considerations. First, Amir Khan might carve out a principality for himself in these regions and become a menace to the security and tranquillity of the British Empire in India. Secondly, the territories which Amir Khan was likely to acquire were designed to be conquered by the British Government and given to the Bhonsla as a compensation for his losses at the Second Anglo-Maratha War, in order to conciliate him.²

Accordingly, the Governor-General directed R. Jenkins, Resident at Nagpur, on 18 October, 1809 to transmit a letter of Nagpur Raja to Amir Khan, requiring him to relinquish his designs against the State of Nagpur.³

As Amir Khan was expected to refuse or evade a compliance, measures were also taken to collect an army consisting of one Regiment of light dragoons, a troop of Horse Artillery, five Regiments of Native Cavalry, one Regiment of Infantry, and seven battalions of Native Infantry with a body of Mysore Silledar Horse. The whole army was expected to assemble after the 1st December, 1809 only.⁴ Colonel Close was ordered to assume the personal command of this army and was also vested with powers of political and military control on all positions. A force was ordered to be collected in Bundelkhand too as a precautionary measure, and that force was also to be subject to the orders of Colonel Close, if its co-operation was considered to be expedient.⁵

In the above letter, N. B. Edmonstone, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, records, "it is possible also that our military operations may dispossess Amir Khan of his territory Seronge in which event its annexation to the (Nagpur) Raja's dominions would be a measure of expediency, both as an accession of resources to the Raja which will have proved to be politically desirable and as a further demonstration of the sincerity of our desire to compensate to a certain extent for the losses sustained during the last war" of 1803.⁶

1. *Sironj Ka Itihasa*, p. 59.

2. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. II, p. VI.

3. *ibid.* p. 98.

4. *ibid.*

5. *ibid.*

6. *ibid.* p. 99.

Amir Khan, in January, 1810 was camping at Gadarwara in Narsimhapur district. On being informed that the British troops were heading for him, he retired hastily. By taking the route of Chainpur-Baree and Raisen, Amir Khan pursued his march towards Vidisha¹. Subsequently he halted at Sironj and pursued his march westwards.² When the Pindaris approached Sironj, Amir Khan and his accomplices had a combined force of 4000 Cavalry, 500 Infantry and possessed 12 guns.³ However, by February, 1810 Amir Khan's force was defeated and as is said earlier, he retreated westwards towards Ujjain. Sironj was then occupied by the Britishers.⁴ About Sironj, Col. Close writes, "Sironj is an open town. In the centre of it is a square enclosure in which the *Amildar* has usually resided".⁵ He perceived that Sironj was not only unfortified, but was incapable of being made a secure or convenient post for defence. He further writes, "annual revenue of Sironj is as formerly estimated at nearly 3 lakhs of rupees. For many years it has not yielded more than a lakh and a half".⁶

Sironj was to remain with the British only for a shortwhile. It was decided by them to close the campaign on the grounds of political expediency. Edmonstone wrote on 8th March, 1810 to Col. Close to withdraw the British troops and hand over Sironj to the Holkar's Government.⁷ Accordingly, Colonel Close nominated an *Amildar* of Sironj on behalf of the Holkar's Government.⁸ In the meanwhile, the British were making preparations to liquidate the Pindaris. This alarmed the Pindaris who, in November 1816, petitioned to the Sindhia for protection and guidance. The hunt of the Pindaris merged into the Third Maratha War. In this hunt Amir Khan was humbled with great difficulty.

There was a prolonged negotiation between the British and Amir Khan for a settlement. Amir Khan had requested for (i) a *Jagir* in Rohilkhand for his son, (ii) the grant of a compact territory in lieu of his scattered possessions, (iii) a free gift of three lakhs of rupees to him, (iv) the grant of a *sanad* from the British in respect of all the Holkar lands, held by him. There were many more conditions which were not acceptable to the British. Amir Khan was, however, granted the tract of Tonk, of which Sironj was a Taluka.⁹ The condition of granting Rs. 3 lakhs was also accepted at a later date by the

Treaty between
Amir Khan
and the British

1. *ibid.* pp. 134-135.

2. *ibid.* p. 139.

3. *ibid.* p. 144.

4. *ibid.* pp. 27-28.

5. *ibid.* p. 143.

6. *ibid.*

7. *ibid.*

8. *ibid.* p. 142.

9. Selections from Nagpur Residency Records, Vol. IV, p. 155.

British. Full particulars of the treaty concluded between Amir Khan and the British on the 9th November 1817 are detailed below:—

Article - 1

The British Government guarantees to Nawab Amir Khan, and his heirs, in perpetuity, the possession of the places which he holds in the territories of Maharaja Holkar, under grants from the said Maharaja, and the British Government takes those possessions under its protection.

II. Nawab Amir Khan will disband his army, with the exception of such a portion as may be requisite for the internal management of his possession.

III. Nawab Amir Khan will not commit aggressions in any country. He will relinquish his connections with the Pindaris and other plunderers, and will, moreover, co-operate to the utmost, of his power with the British Government for their chastisement and suppression. He will not enter into negotiations with any person what so ever without the consent of the British Government.

IV. Nawab Amir Khan will deliver unto the British Government all his guns and military equipments, with the exception of such a portion as may be requisite for the internal management of his possessions and the defence of his forts, and shall receive in exchange an equitable pecuniary compensation.

V. The force which Nawab Amir Khan may retain shall attend at the requisition of the British Government.¹

Amir Khan himself lived in Sironj in 1820 for about 6 months and took measures to give efficient administration to the tract.

In the year 1827 Vazir-ud-daullah was appointed the *Amil* of Sironj. Later he became the Nawab of Tonk and Sironj in 1834 A. D. and ruled upto 1864.²

The Great Revolt of 1857

The District was to become a theatre of upheavals during the Great Revolt of 1857. At that time the parts of the District were divided as follows: Vidisha was under the Sindhia, who posted a *Suba* (Collector) over there; Sironj

1. J. Malcom, *A Memoir of Central India including Malwa*, Vol. II, p. 407.

2. *Sironj Ka Itihasa*, p. 63.

was under Vazir-ud-daullah, the Nawab of Tonk; Kurwai was under Nawab Muzaffar Khan (1839-1859) subject to the British control; Basoda and Muhammadgarh rulers were the relatives of Kurwai Nawab and Pathari was ruled by Nawab Haidar Muhammad Khan.

Such was the state of affairs when Fazil Muhammad Khan and Adil Muhammad Khan, the *Jagirdars* of Ambapani took up the banner of revolt. After inciting the uprising at Sehore in August, 1857 they attacked Garhi Ambapani and planned to attack Pathari. On the 9th Safar 1274 (28 Sept. 1857) Adil Muhammad and Fazil Muhammad Khan reached Chandrapur village with about 300 followers with the intention of attacking Nawab Haidar Muhammad Khan of Pathari. The followers of the Nawab of Pathari faced the invaders. In the fight that ensued about half-a-dozen men on both sides were killed and the followers of the Nawab fled. Two or three villages were then plundered by Fazil Muhammad Khan, and chasing the fugitives he reached Pathari. Having entered the Garhi of Pathari, a *thana* was set up there by Fazil Muhammad Khan.¹

After looting Pathari and arresting Nawab Haidar Muhammad, Faiz Muhammad commented, "Fall of Pathari is a satisfaction. Now, there is Sewans (modern Begumganj in Raisen District), today or tomorrow it will be seen".² However, this success was to be short lived. Fazil Muhammad Khan ran short of funds and asked his followers to plunder Sewans. The rebels, therefore, dispersed³ and Pathari was soon recovered by Nawab Haidar Muhammad.⁴

From July, 1857 to November, 1857 the rebels had an upper hand in the tract. In December, 1857 Hugh Rose assumed the command to suppress the rebellion. Reaching Sehore on 15th January, 1853, he sentenced 149 rebels to death and proceeded towards Rahatgarh in the adjoining Sagar district. By 28 January, 1853 Rahatgarh was besieged, and Fazil Muhammad Khan was taken a prisoner. He was at once hanged at the gateway of the Fort of Rahatgarh.⁵

However, Adil Muhammad with his followers still remained at large to give an anxious time to the Britishers. He joined Tatya Tope and reached Jhansi on 1st April, 1858 to relieve Rani Laxmi Bai.⁶ By opening a severe

1. Extracts from the Mutiny Records, National Archives, Bhopal, File No. 33, p. 133.

2. *ibid.* p. 127.

3. *ibid.* File No. 33/C, p. 215.

4. The Annual Administration Report of the Pathari State, 1908-09, p. 1.

5. K. L. Shrivastava, *The Revolt of 1857 in Central India-Malwa*, p. 184.

6. *ibid.* p. 187.

fire on the British forces they made the position of Hugh Rose very critical. But, later Taty Tope had to order a retreat. Thereafter, various isolated bands of rebels hovered in and around the Bhopal Agency.

Thakur Chhatarsal, the Chief of Agra-Barkhera was one of such rebels. He was responsible for the rebellious activities in this part of the tract. He held *Jagir*-villages from the Sindhia and the Nawabs of Tonk and Kurwai. Thakur Chhatarsal was charged with having risen in arms and murdering Bapu Suba Rao, the British Indian Officer at *Berchha* now in Shajapur district. He wrote inspiring letters to the *Subah* of Bhilsa for the overthrow of the Company's Government. He was, perhaps, the most influential man between the Parbati and Betwa rivers.¹

Vidisha region continued to remain a scene of rebellious activities. Adil Muhammad Khan, with his 500 followers, after passing through the villages of Newayanpura and entering through Tehri Jungle occupied, early in September, 1858, the fort of Bussul (Sironj), situated on a hill. Other important rebels, assembled with Adil Muhammad Khan at Bussul, were Sarfaraz Muhammad Khan (the nephew of Adil Muhammad Khan) and Rao Kumar Singh Pindarah.²

By November, 1858 the strength of the followers of Adil Muhammad Khan swelled to 1500, all of whom were stationed at village Bhiwah of Muhammadgarh. Subsequently, traversing through on the night of 21 April, 1859 Adil Muhammad Khan with his followers passed from the Nerbudda towards Vidisha territory.³ On the 29th April, 1859 the Naib Bakhshi of Bhopal with a body of 100 horse and foot encountered these rebels. In the skirmish that ensued, the rebels were defeated with a loss of 19 killed and many wounded. Adil Muhammad, however, escaped and soon got reinforcement.

On 15 May, 1859 Adil Muhammad Khan, Amanat Khan and Sarfaraz Khan captured the fort of Pipria under Vidisha.⁴ On the 18th May, 1859, a British detachment accompanied the *Subah* of Isagarh from Sironj to Sanchi and attacked Adil Muhammad Khan. Some of his followers were killed or captured, but Adil Muhammad himself managed to escape.⁵ The fort of Pipria was evacuated by them. In June, 1859, a large number of rebels were reported to be still in the Bhilsa District.⁶

1. *ibid.* pp. 119-120.

2. File No. 1817, Intelligence from Acting Assistant incharge of Berchha, dated 6th September, 1858.

3. File No. 1817, Official Memo No. 263, dated 24th April 1859 of G. Cumming, Offg. P.A. Bhopal.

4. *ibid.* letter No. 358, dated 18th May 1859, from Hutchinson, Principal Assistant, Bhopal to Agent to Governor General for Central India (C.I.).

5. *ibid.* memo No. 362 dated 20 May, 1859 from Bhopal, to A. G. G. for C.I.

6. *ibid.* letter No. 1488 dated 6 June 1859 from A. G. G. for C. I. to Major General Sir Michael.

By the last week of June 1859 serious efforts were made by the British forces to launch an attack on the rebels under Adil Muhammad Khan. When Lieutenant Bruce, Commanding at Vidisha, got information that the rebels were staying at village Gunapura, about 22 miles from Vidisha, he marched with his force on 22 June, 1859 at 8 A.M. reaching the village, situated on the range of hills surrounded by a dense forest, the same day at 4 P.M. He found soon that the British Contingent was threatened by a party of rebels who appeared on the hill above the village. Because of the dense forest Lt. Bruce thought it unwise to pursue the rebels too far and hence he recalled his sepoys. On obtaining information that about 1,000 rebels under Bakhshi Amanat Khan had encamped two miles east of Gunapura, Lt. Bruce proceeded to that place only to find that the rebels had left before an hour. To deprive the rebels of provisions, the stores were collected from the village and burnt. Bruce encamped in the night at Gunapura and having failed to humble Adil Muhammad Khan and Amanat Khan he returned to Vidisha the next day at 11 A.M.¹

Subsequently, Lt. F. Roome, Commanding Basoda Field Force, sent a copy of the British terms to Adil Muhammad Khan and Amanat Khan. Considering it an affront, designed to humiliate him, Adil Muhammad ordered that the hands of the British messengers should be cut off. But the messengers by jumping off their houses and running into the forest managed to escape.² Lt. Roome, therefore, on 23 June attacked Adil Muhammad Khan on the hills above Gunapura, and killed over 100 rebels. Pits of grain sufficient for a year's supply, discovered there, were also burnt by the Britishers.

Shifting from Gunapura the rebels threatened the security of the Bombay-Agra highway. It was reported on 7 July, 1859 that Adil Muhammad Khan with his 500 followers was camping at Ghatira, 28 miles from Vidisha. Commander Lieutenant Bruce without losing time, started for Ghatira. On reaching there in the morning of the 8th July, he discovered that the rebels had dispersed in the neighbouring dense jungle. Bruce ordered the village of Ghatira to be burnt. Out of frustration, Rampura, another village at a distance of one mile from Ghatira, was also burnt. He returned to Vidisha via Gunapura after marching 55 miles in 24 hours.³

It was on 19 July, 1859 that the rebels suffered a serious blow. On that day the rebel leader Sarfaraz Khan came to a village, half-a-mile from Muhammadgarh. He was attacked there by the Nawab of Basoda, Asaf Ali Khan,

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1. File No. 1817, letter dated 23 June, 1859 from Lieutenant Bruce, Commanding at Vidisha, to P.A. Bhopal.
 2. *ibid.* letter dated 9 July, 1859 from Lieutenant Bruce, Commanding at Vidisha to P.A. Bhopal.
 3. *ibid.* letter No. 169, dated 25th July 1859 from P.A. Bhopal to A.G.G. for Central India.

who inflicted a crushing defeat upon the rebel leader. Possibly, to avoid humiliation by the arrest Sarfaraz Khan took a dose of poison and thereby met his death the next day.

Subsequently, Captain Roome sent Jamadar Ramlal in Command of a party of the 10th Regiment Indian Infantry disguised as rebels. The party created such an alarm among the followers of Adil Muhammad Khan and Amanat Khan that they decided to surrender to the British. The Nawab of Basoda and Muhammadgarh accelerated this process of surrender by using their good offices in favour of the British. Thus, by the end of September, 1859, the whole of the remnants of Adil Muhammad and Amanat Khan's followers surrendered to Captain Roome. Upon this, the success which attended the measures taken by the British in putting down the rebellion was recorded by Captain Roome thus: "I can now safely report that there is not a single rebel in the whole district".¹

However, Adil Muhammad Khan escaped towards Lalitpur and Amanat Khan escaped towards Datia. As late as in 1860, Adil Muhammad joined Rao Sahib and shared his fate elsewhere. Since those events are not a part of the history of this District, it is unnecessary to go into their details.

It is generally agreed that the outcome of the Great Revolt would have been different but for the loyal support to the British given by some of the Indian Princes, especially the Nizam, Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior and Begum of Bhopal, besides the petty Chiefs like those of Basoda and Muhammadgarh. The British Government, therefore, came out with a proclamation guaranteeing the rights and privileges of the princes and assuring them against the annexation of any further princely territory.² Thus, Vidisha District,¹ which was divided among the Sindhia and the Nawab of Kurwai, Tonk, Pathari, Muhammadgarh and Basoda, did not face any change in its ruling houses.

In the year 1859 Najaf Khan (1859-1887) succeeded as the ruler of Kurwai. In the Pathari State, in 1861, Haidar Muhammad Khan was succeeded by his son Abdul Karim Khan at the age of 5 only under the regency of his mother. Changes took place in the year 1864 in Basoda and Sironj. Asad Ali, the ruler of Basoda, died in the year 1864 A. D. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Amar Ali Khan. In Sironj, Nawab Vazir-ud-daula of Tonk was succeeded in 1865 by Muhammad Ali Khan, who was succeeded, in 1867, by his eldest son, Ibrahim Khan, as the Nawab of Tonk. The minor Nawab of

1. *ibid.* letter No. 220, dated 5 October, 1859 from P.A. Bhopal to A.G.G. for C.I.

2. R. L. Handa, *History of Freedom Struggle in Princely States*, p. 85.

Pathari attained majority in the year 1872 and was invested with ruling powers by the British.

Growth of Freedom Movement

The growth of national consciousness in areas constituting the modern Vidisha District was, as in the case of other princely states in general, slow and unsteady. Even so, the renaissance which began with Raja Ram Mohan Rai was imperceptibly making its influence felt in every nook and corner of the country, and awakening people out of their slumber.

The period was marked by the establishment of non-official organisations in certain states for the redress of the people's grievances. In April, 1929 the Sarvajanik Sabha, a social and cultural organisation, was established in Gwalior State, of which Takhtmal Jain of Vidisha was the Secretary for six years from 1930-31 to 1936-37.

In the same year an attempt was made to form a Praja Mandal at Vidisha and get it registered, but the Gwalior State Government turned it down. The political workers of the District, however, continued their efforts for a representative government with Ujjain as the centre of their activities. Trimbak Damodar Pustake was the moving spirit of the movement. In the field of constructive programmes, Harijan Welfare, and Khadi Gramodyog were also started, and at Sironj the Khadi production work made a beginning.

The Indian National Congress also began to take an increasing interest in the unrest in the princely states. At the Haripura session of the Congress in 1938 the Indian National Congress passed a resolution stressing, that the Congress stood for the same political, social and economic freedom in the States as in the rest of India, and that the states were integral part of India. It was, however, left to the State's people themselves to work for their liberation.

It was against this background that the Gwalior Government, of which Vidisha was a part, announced the reforms of June, 1939.¹ The proclamation announced that the *Majlis-i-Aam* and *Majlis-i-Kanoon* would be replaced by a bicameral legislature to be known as the Praja Sabha and Samant Sabha (later named as Raj Sabha). A Franchise Committee was appointed and as a result of its recommendation the franchise was extended upto 20 per cent of the adult population. The *Sarvajanik Sabha* condemned these reforms as inadequate and boycotted the Committee. The reforms, however, could not be brought into force as the World War II broke out. However, with a view to associating some non-official persons from his subjects with the administration

1. *Gwalior State Gazette (Extraordinary)* dated the 14th June, 1939.

of the State, the Ruler appointed Takhtmal Jain as a Minister for three years from 11 November, 1940, and placed him in charge of the Rural Welfare and Local Self-Government.

Gandhiji did not permit Individual Satyagraha to be launched in the Indian States. Therefore, when Smt. Madan Devi Naval, wife of Ram Chandra Naval, went to Gandhiji at Sevagram to take his permission for Individual Satyagraha, she was permitted to offer the same at Bina, in Sagar district. She was there-upon arrested thrice and kept imprisoned in Sagar Jail.

In the Quit India Movement of 1942, the picketting of liquor shops was undertaken. The leader of this movement was Ram Sahay. Ramchandra Naval, Madan Devi Naval and others also took part. Since section 144 was still not challenged in the district, two couples namely, Gupta, a tailor by profession, and his wife, and Ramchandra Naval and his wife Madan Devi Naval, combined to break section 144 in Vidisha. They were arrested and imprisoned at Bhorasa, near Kurwai. The elections to the Praja Sabha and Raj Sabha were ultimately held in 1945, in which the members of the State Congress were returned in a substantial majority into the Legislature. The demand for the responsible Government continued unabated.

India became Independent on 15 August, 1947. It became increasingly difficult for the rulers of Princely States to deny responsible Government. The Maharaja of Gwalior, accordingly, made a declaration on 23 January, 1948 granting responsible government to the State, and a cabinet of ministers was sworn in on the next day. A major part of the modern Vidisha District, being included in Gwalior States also shared the responsible government.

The rulers of Gwalior, Indore and other states of Malwa signed the covenant on 22 April, 1948, and thus the Madhya Bharat Union came into being on 28 May, 1948. The present Vidisha District, except Sironj sub-division, thus became part of Madhya Bharat.¹ The first ministry led by Liladhar Joshi took office on 4 June, 1948. After 1st October, 1950, Takhtmal Jain was elected as leader of the State Congress Party and became the Chief Minister.

Following the results of the General Elections of 1952, Takhtmal Jain tendered resignation of the Ministry on 11 February 1952. He was, however, re-elected as the Congress Party leader. But it was in February, 1955 that Takhtmal Jain was able to win a bye-election and was sworn in as the Chief Minister in April, 1955. His Ministry continued in the office till 31 October, 1956.

1. R. L. Handa, *op. cit.*, p. 320.

So far as Sironj was concerned, it was decided to form a Union of Kota, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kishangarh and Shahpura. The Tonk state also joined the Union. Thus Sironj became a part of the Rajasthan Provinces¹. Later, on 7 April, 1949 Sironj was made a Sub-Divisional headquarters attached to Kota. Lateri and Sironj continued to be a part of Rajasthan until the Reorganisation of States in 1956.

Consequent upon the formation of the New Madhya Pradesh as a result of the Reorganisation of States, on the 1st November, 1956 Bhopal became the capital. At this juncture Sironj and Lateri which were transferred from Rajasthan to Madhya Pradesh became tahsils of Vidisha District.



1. *Sironj Ka Itihasa*, p. 79.

2. V. P. Menon, *The Story of Integration of the Indian States*, p. 228.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Population

According to the figures of Census 1971, the population of the District is 6,58,427 (349,767 males and 308,660 females), living in four towns (Vidisha, Sironj, Basoda and Kurwai) and 1,510 villages in an area of 7,433 sq. km. The density of population per sq. kilometre is 89 in comparison to the state density of 94. The total population of the District is 1.58 per cent of that of the whole State. This is little less than the percentage of the area of the District, viz., 1.68 per cent. In 1971 census, the District remained 34th in population in the State. The percentage of rural and urban population to total population was 85.89 per cent and 14.11 per cent, respectively. The sex-ratio, i. e. number of females for 1,000 males, was recorded as 882 while the sex-ratio in the State was 941.

The distribution of population in its five tahsils seems to be uneven, ranging from entirely rural Lateri tahsil on the west to the most populous Basoda Tahsil on the east, which is depicted in table No. I-1 given in chapter I.

Sex-ratio

The following table gives the variation in sex-ratio during the present century in rural and urban break-up:-

Table No. III-1
Variation in Sex-Ratio, 1901-1971

Sex-Ratio (Females per 1,000 males)

	1971	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
Total	882	890	915	905	917	908	940	939
Rural	886	895	915	907	916	908	939	935
Urban	862	860	919	885	921	910	952	984

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

It is interesting to analyse the sex-distribution by age-groups in 1961 census, wherein the proportion at birth in 0-4 age group being 989 sharply declines in 10-14 age group to 823. Again till the age-group of 20-24 years, it

salvaged considerably (995), but shadows of deluge set in at this age, which devastated the sex-ratio in each subsequent age-group till the lowest ebb of 628 females per 1000 males reached in 55-59 age group. A near parity at birth (989) came down to 823 females per 1,000 males in 10-14 age-group and 628 in 55-59 age-group unpalatably pointed to a considerable rate of female mortality during the advanced years of life, inspite of tireless efforts by the Government to provide medical cover to the maximum possible extent.

Another interesting feature of sex-ratio studies by age-group revealed a higher rate of female survival and longevity beyond the age-group of 70 years and over, whereafter the rate improved to 1,100 per 1,000 males.

Growth of Population

No reliable estimates of the District population prior to 1901 are available. The *zila* population in 1901 numbered 120,189, on a land area of 1,625 sq. miles giving roughly a density of 74 persons per sq. mile. Two *Parganas*, viz, Bhilsa and Basoda with a population of 54,293 and 65,896, respectively in 1901, were recorded. During the 70 years (1901-71) the population of the District almost has trebled itself, registering a total increase of about 189 per cent. The following Table gives the variation in population (adjusted to the boundaries of the District in 1971) since 1901.

Table No. III-2

Variation in Population, 1901-1971

Year	Variation in population during seventy years (1901-71)					
	Persons		Decade Variation		Percentage of decade variation	Males Females
1901	227,998					117,573 110,425
1911	296,966	+	68,968	+	30.25	153,055 143,911
1921	348,047	+	51,081	+	17.20	182,421 165,626
1931	345,818	—	2,229	--	0.64	180,427 165,391
1941	383,347	+	37,529	+	10.85	201,231 182,116
1951	386,075	+	2,728	+	0.71	201,567 184,508
1961	489,213	+	103,138	+	26.71	258,840 230,373
1971	658,427	+	169,214	+	34.59	349,767 308,660

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971. .

As per adjusted population according to boundaries prevailing in 1971, Vidisha had an estimated population of 227,998 in 1901 (males 117,573 and females 110,425). Recording a growth rate of 30.25

The Decade of Fast per cent, Vidisha returned 296,966 population in 1911.

Recuperation Because of its rich black cotton soil, the District has a considerable power of quick recuperation and, thus over all toning in economy was felt in this decade. The mean density per sq. mile improved considerably from 73 in 1901 to 101 in 1911.

A normal year of harvest welcomed the 1911-21 decade but it concluded with grim tragedies of influenza epidemic which played havoc with the population devastating the erstwhile Gwalior State and other

The Dark Decade parts of the country in 1918-19. Recording 348,047 population of 1911-21 tion or an increase of 51,081 or 17.20 per cent Vidisha recorded 48,497 immigrants in its population in 1921 against 26,259 during the foregoing decade. Immigration was mostly (about 34,000) from contiguous parts of other provinces, while about 13,000 persons also came from non-contiguous parts of other provinces.

In 1931 Vidisha recorded a population of 345,818. A fall of 0.64 per cent or 2,229 persons over 1921 is a peculiar phenomenon to the District. This uncanny behaviour of population in Vidisha has been

Decade of Peculiar described in 1931 Census as fictitious. Seasonal influx of field Phenomenon labourers at the harvest time in the District was largely responsible for an unusual increase during the Census of 1921. Census 1931 recorded a fall of 12,645 persons among the total immigrants (35,852) because the crops were not ready for harvesting when the census operations were being conducted.¹ The natural increase in population in 1931 showed a net increase of 4,173 persons with 29,078 births and 24,905 deaths.

The following decade of 1931-41 represented a period of normal growth, when the District population moved to 383,347 (males 201,231 and females 182,116), thus recording 37,529 or 10.85 per cent increase

A Decade of over 1931 population. Moving from 73 in 1901 to 133 per Normal Growth sons per sq. mile has been termed in 1941 Census as the most 1931-41 arresting differential characteristic of the area. As is known, the District is open for considerable immigration, and those

born in the contiguous or non-contiguous parts of other provinces figured out significantly. It was estimated that in 1941, while other parts of the former Gwalior State sent 5281 immigrants, adjacent Provinces or States sent 32,373 persons. Guna from among the districts of the State (2,919) and Bhopal

1. Gwalior State Census, 1931, Pt. I, p.13.

(11,931) among the Central India Agency States were the adjacent areas having strong migration link with Vidisha.

Then followed a period of arrested growth. Returning a population of 386,075 persons in 1951, the District recorded a growth-rate of 0.71 per cent during 1941-51. The traditional immigration links with Guna Period of Arrested Growth: Madhya Pradesh (7,847), Rajasthan (7,324) and Uttar Pradesh (4,962) also contributed considerably to the District population in 1951. In addition to these, 463 Pakistani immigrants and 389 displaced persons were also enumerated.

For the next two decades (1951-61 and 1961-71) the trend of population growth broke all records since 1921. Mounting on the crest of a general wave of unprecedented growth the population in Vidisha swelled from 386,075 to 489,213, recording a growth rate of 26.71 per cent in 1951-61 decade as against the State average of 26.17. In 1961-71, Vidisha District recorded a growth rate of 34.59 per cent which is much higher than the State average of 28.67 per cent. Reasons of a higher rate of growth despite intensive efforts of the family planning organisation, may be attributed to lower death rate and higher expectancy of life at birth. Immigration from outside may also be partly responsible.

Immigration

With the Reorganisation of States in 1956, the pattern of immigration links slightly changed in favour of Sagar district (10,395), Guna receding to second place with 9,841 immigrants in 1961. Sehore (7,820) and Raisen (7,600) districts, the southern neighbours, continued to enjoy important migration links with Vidisha. The following Table reveals the extent and direction of immigration according to Census 1961:-

Table No. III-3
No. of Immigrants, 1961

Place where born	Immigrants Enumerated		
	Total persons	Rural	Urban
1. Born in other districts of the State	52,495	41,742	10,753
(a) Born in districts contiguous to the District	35,656	29,788	5,868
1. Sagar	10,395	8,719	1,676
2. Guna	9,841	8,306	1,535

1	2	3	4
3. Shore	7,820	5,993	1,827
4. Raisen	7,600	6,770	830
(b) Non-contiguous districts of the State	16,839	11,954	4,885
2. Other States in India	15,016	8,968	6,048
(a) Uttar Pradesh	8,740	4,744	3,996
(b) Rajasthan	4,102	3,510	592
(c) Maharashtra	1,043	408	635
(d) Others	1,131	306	825
3. Born in countries in Asia and U.S.S.R	927	100	827
(a) Pakistan	877	95	782
(b) Nepal	43	4	39
(c) Others	7	1	6
4. Born in other Countries	23	4	19

Source : Census Report, 1961

Rural and Urban Population

Predominantly a rural district, Vidisha had a rural population of 4,24,933 persons (224,290 males and 200,643 females), constituting 86.86 per cent of the total population in 1961. Urban component was of the order of 64,280 persons, constituting 13.14 per cent in 1961. With an increase of urban component to 14.16 per cent in 1971 the rural proportion declined to 85.84 per cent, the respective population being 92,876 and 565,551. Rural area extending over 7,294.45 sq. km. in 1961 recorded an average density of 58 persons per sq. km. Four towns together extended only to 8.00 sq. km., thus recorded an average density of 8,035 persons per sq. km. Kurwai township was added in Census 1961. There was a slight increase in the rural area (7424.9 sq. km.) in 1971, but the rural density stepped up to 76. Similarly, though the change in urban area in 1971 was insignificant, the urban density increased to 11,480. The following Table gives the tahsil-wise and rural and urban population along with the number of villages and towns according to Census 1961 and 1971 :

Table No. III-4
No. of Villages, Towns and Rural -Urban
Population, 1961 and 1971

District/ Tahsil	No. of Villages				No. of towns 1961/1971	Population, 1971		
	In-habi- ted 1961 1971		Uninha- bited 1961 1971			Total	Rural	Urban
Lateri	165	179	30	16	--	55,755	55,755	—
Sironj	261	266	29	23	1	106,969	84,556	22,413
Kurwai	211	207	14	18		85,140	78,329	6,811
Basoda	451	450	19	20	1	203,752	183,312	20,440
Vidisha	410	408	33	31	1	206,811	163,599	43,212
District Total	1,498	1510	125	108	4	658,427	565,551	92,876

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

Rural and Urban Growth Rate

During the period from 1901 to 1971, the rural population recorded an increase of 169.18 per cent. Recording 418.92 per cent increase in urban population during 1901-71, it is higher than the State average (365.33 per cent) and still higher than the Divisional average (281.83 per cent). The increase in the urban population has been much more as compared to the increase in the rural population ever since the decade 1921-31. During this decade also, when the District ranked the last in the State so far as the growth of population in rural area was concerned, the urban population showed an increase of 33.16 per cent followed by 28.28 per cent increase during 1931-41. Consistent and large increase had been registered during the succeeding decades. The pace of rural growth was further accelerated during 1961-71, but in case of urban it was slackened slightly. The following Table shows the growth of rural and urban population since 1901.

Table No. III-5
Growth of Rural and Urban Population
1901-1971

Year	Rural Popu- lation	Decennial Growth Rate (percentage)	Urban pop- ulation	Decennial Growth rate (percentage)
1901	210,100	—	17,898	—
1911	276,448	31.58	30,518	14.64

1	2	3	4	5
1921	327,486	18.46	20,561	0.21
1931	318,346	2.79	27,472	33.61
1941	348,107	9.35	35,240	28.28
1951	342,910	1.49	43,165	22.49
1961	424,933	23.92	64,280	48.92
1971	565,551	33.09	92,876	44.49

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

With an average of 284 persons per village against the State average of 394 in 1961, Vidisha has been a district of small villages, 47 per cent of which having a population of less than 200 then. Lateri Tahsil Size of Villages had the highest percentage of such villages where 66 per cent villages fell in this range and 25 per cent between 200 and 499. Sironj Tahsil ranked next where 51 per cent villages fell in the former (below 200) and 36 per cent in the latter category (200 and 499). Vidisha Tahsil and Kurwai Tahsil had about 46 per cent villages with population less than 200 in each. Basoda was the last in this respect with 39 per cent in 1961. In 1971 over 77 per cent of the villages in the District had a population of less than 500.

Out of 1,498 inhabited villages in 1961 about 86.32 per cent as against 91.34 per cent in 1951 were small villages (below 500 persons), that sustained 61.07 per cent population in 1961 against 70.15 per cent in 1951. The proportion of medium (500-999 persons) size villages vastly drops to 11.01 per cent (against 7.23 in 1951), but they sustained a sizeable section of (25.90 per cent of population in 1961 against 21.00 in 1951. Similarly, the proportion of large villages (1000-1999) dwarfed to 2.60 per cent (against 1.29 in 1951), but contained 12.13 per cent (against 6.73 per cent in 1951) of the total population in the District in 1961. The corresponding 1971 figures are 4.17 per cent villages inhabited by 14.88 per cent population.

Vidisha and Sironj are old towns which appeared on the horizon of urban history of the District before the turn of the present century. Basoda acquired the status of a town in 1931, while Kurwai joined the group as late as in 1961. The growth of population in towns and their variation since 1901, or when treated as town, is given in the following Table:—

Growth of
Townships

Table No. III-6
Growth of Towns 1901-1971

Town	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971
Vidisha	7,481	8,427	8,801	10,570	4,472	19,184	27,718	43,212
Sironj	10,417	12,091	11,760	12,275	13,906	15,110	17,288	22,413
Basoda	—	—	—	4,627	6,862	8,871	14,152	20,440
Kurwai	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,122	6,811

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

Vidisha recorded an increase of about 478 per cent during 1901-1971, while during this period the population of Sironj town increased only by 115 per cent. Though classed as a town in 1931, Basoda recorded an increase of about 342 per cent during 1931-1971. The reason for almost static growth of Sironj on the one hand and the steady progress of Vidisha and Basoda appears to be the location of the latter two on the railway line, and being easily approachable and convenient for trade and commerce. Kurwai for the first time came into the category of towns in 1961, and recorded an increase in population of 32.97 per cent during 1961-71.

Displaced Persons

The influx of displaced persons in Vidisha was less felt after the partition of the country. A stream of 389 displaced persons (217 males and 172 females) converged into this District, mostly during the year 1947 and 1948. Almost all of them emigrated from places in West Pakistan. Because of their primary occupation in commercial activities and other miscellaneous services peculiar to urban areas, about 90.6 per cent of them settled in these areas. Their main concentration was recorded in Ward numbers 6 and 1 of Vidisha town where 168 and 121 displaced persons were settled respectively. In Basoda town, Ward number 1 witnessed their concentration (39 persons).

Language

Hindi is the most widely spoken language in the District constituting the mother tongue of 444,947 persons or 90.95 per cent of total population in 1961. Other prominent speeches enumerated in the District were Urdu (38,338 or 7.84 per cent) and Marathi (1,763 or 0.36 per cent). The remaining 4,165 or 0.85 per cent speakers used 33 different speeches. The percentage of Urdu speaking persons was highest in the rural areas of Kurwai tahsil (12 per cent), followed

by 11 per cent in Sironj tahsil and 9 per cent in Lateri tahsil. It was only 3 per cent in Basoda tahsil and 2 per cent in Vidisha tahsil.

The following Table shows the distribution of population by languages/dialects in rural and urban areas. Only those languages with more than 500 speakers have been included in the Table.

Table No. III-7
Population by Languages/dialects, 1961

Languages/ Dialects	Total			Rural	Urban
	Persons	Males	Females		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hindi	444,947	234,791	210,156	296,278	48,669
Urdu	38,338	20,727	17,611	26,213	12,125
Marathi	1,763	953	810	268	1,495
Marwari	1,128	628	500	1,085	43
Sindhi	863	466	397	46	817
Punjabi	538	308	230	122	416
Gujarati	500	267	233	276	224
Others	1,136	700	436	645	491
All Languages	489,213	258,840	230,373	424,933	64,280

Source : Census Report, 1961.

Besides the languages mentioned in the above Table, census 1961 recorded 30 more dialects or speeches spoken by a small section of the population. Of these Tamil (210), Gondi (202), Rajasthani (179) Banjari (132) and Bagri/Rajasthani (103) are a few to mention.

In 1908, the prevailing dialect was Bundeli, spoken by 101,466 persons. But in census 1921, Malwi was reported as the most widely used colloquial dialect spoken by 7,366 persons per 10,000 of population against 1,178 persons per 10,000 of population speaking Bundelkhandi. Malwi retained its importance as the second most widely spoken dialect in 1931 and 1941 census, spoken by 73,450 and 59,370 persons respectively. But after the first census of free India in 1951, and in census 1961 only five and one person returned under it, respectively.

Urdu was returned as the mother tongue by 7.84 per cent of the people in 1961. Urdu speakers numbered 1,995 in 1951 and increased to 38,338 in 1961. Urdu retained its second place uniformly in all the tahsils (rural), abounding in Sironj (7,328) Kurwai (7,049) and Basoda (5,504). Lateri (3,844) and Vidisha (2,588) followed with fair sprinkling of them.

Bilingualism

The following Table will show the extent of bilingualism prevalent in Vidisha District according to census 1961.

Table No. III-8
Bilingualism (1961)

Mother Tongue	Total Speakers	Total persons returned as speaking a language other than Mother-tongue	Important subsidiary languages
Hindi	444,947	4,759	English (3,320), Urdu (726)
Urdu	38,338	4,697	Hindi (4,252), Arabic (203), English (173)
Marathi	1,763	1,172	Hindi (1,024), English (94)
Marwari	1,128	260	Hindi (260)
Sindhi	863	346	Hindi (315), English (15)
Punjabi	538	362	Hindi (307), English (3)

English amongst the Hindi speakers and Hindi amongst the rest of the above mentioned language groups are the main subsidiary speeches in the District. Barring Urdu which has Arabic as the next important subsidiary speech, all others, except Marwaris, have English as the second language.

Religion and Caste

A vast majority of the population in the District professes Hinduism and 436,814 (89.29 per cent) returned under its fold in 1961. Hindus were followed by Muslims 44,601 (9.12 per cent), Jains 7,333 (1.50 per cent) and Sikhs 367 (0.07 per cent) in 1961. There were only 98 persons who professed other religions (86 Christianity and 12 Buddhism) in that year. There was a slight fall in the percentage of Hindus (89.21) and Muslims (9.03) whereas Jains' percentage increased (1.65) in 1971. The percentage of Sikhs to total population, however, remained stationary.

The following Table shows regional distribution of population by religions.

Table No. III-9
Population by Religion, 1951, 1961 and 1971

Religion	District Total		Percentage decade variation	Tahsil Population 1961 (rural)					District Total 1971
	1951	1961		Lateri	Sironj	Kurwai	Basoda	Vidisha	
Hindu	349,406	436,814	25.01	34,808	57,332	52,039	135,813	110,797	587,385
Muslim	30,649	44,601	45.29	4,267	7,782	4,973	8,242	5,985	59,480
Jain	5,808	7,333	26.25	322	448	436	843	672	10,836
Sikh	138	367	165.94	2	3	25	23	66	443
Christian	19	86	352.63	33	—	7	11	1	228
Buddhist	8	12	50.00	1	—	—	2	—	55
Others	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total : All Religions.	386,075	489,213	26.71	39,433	65,565	57,480	149,534	117,521	658,427

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

Principal Communities, Castes, Classes and Tribes

The main castes according to Census 1941 were Teli (55,947), Chamar (43,904), Rajput (37,149), Kachhi (22,248), Brahman (17,808), Lodhi (10,413), Ahir (8,808), Koli (8,496), Kurmi (2,702), Mina (8,038), Rawat (6,833), Nai (4,739), Kirar (4,467), Saharia (4,179), Kumbhar (4,023), Kayastha (2,461), Dhobi (4,003) and Luhar (3,358). Their relative position could not be ascertained later on because of suspension of caste-wise enumeration of data in subsequent Censuses.

According to Census 1961, the Scheduled Castes¹ and the Scheduled Tribes² formed 20.92 and 4.34 per cent of the total District population. There

1. The Scheduled Castes are :— (1) Bagri or Bagdi (2) Balai (3) Banchada (4) Barahar or Basod (5) Bargunda (6) Bedia (7) Bhangi or Mehtar (8) Bhanumati (9) Chamar, Bairwa, Bhambi, Jatav, Mochi or Regar, (10) Chidar (11) Dhanuk (12) Dhed (13) Dom (14) Kanjar (15) Khatik (16) Koli or Kori (17) Kotwal (18) Mahar (19) Mang or Mang Garodi (20) Meghwal (21) Nat, Kalbelia or Sapera (22) Pardhi (23) Pasi (24) Sansi and (25) Zamral.

2. The Scheduled Tribes are : (1) Gond (2) Korku and (3) Seharía (excluding Sironj Sub-Division.)

In Sironj Sub Division :—

- (1) Bhil (2) Bhil Mina (3) Damor, Damaria (4) Garasia (excluding Rajput Garasia) (5) Mina and (6) Sehria, Sahariaya.

has been an increase in both these figures in 1971 to roughly 23 and 5.4 per cent respectively. The following Table shows their strength in the District :--

Table No. III-10
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Population
1961 and 1971

Year	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1951						
Total	65,990	33,275	32,715	14,863	7,570	7,293
Rural	62,478	31,484	30,994	14,834	7,553	7,281
Urban	3,512	1,791	1,721	29	17	12
1961						
Total	102,352	52,758	49,594	21,223	10,684	10,539
Rural	94,073	48,549	45,524	21,076	10,583	10,493
Urban	8,279	4,209	4,070	147	101	46
1971						
Total	141,741	74,127	67,614	30,842	15,833	15,009
Rural	129,900	67,902	61,998	30,476	15,626	14,850
Urban	11,841	6,225	5,616	366	207	159

Source : Census Reports, 1951, 1961 and 1971.

Of the Scheduled Castes, the most numerous were Chamars along with their synonymous groups (76,177), followed by Koli or Kori (9,724), Chidar (4,136), Bhangi (3,437) and Barahar or Basod (3,489) in 1961. With a fair sprinkling in all the tahsils, the concentration of Chamars and Kolis was the most in Basoda and Vidisha tahsils.

Among the Scheduled Tribes, Seharua with a population of 16,892 formed the principal tribe of the District, followed by Gond (2,628) and Sahariaya (1,323) in 1961.

Principal Scheduled Castes

The bulk of the Scheduled Caste population (76,177) belonged to the above Castes. In the rural areas 42 per cent of the Chamars were engaged in cultivation and 40 per cent as agricultural labourers in 1961. Chamar (including The percentage of workers in household industry was very little. About 9 per cent were engaged in other services. In the urban areas, about 23 per cent were engaged in household industry, 28 per cent in other services, 10 per cent in manufacturing other than household industry and construction, 6 per cent in trade and commerce and 5 per cent in transport, storage and communications. Educationally awakened in urban areas, Chamar registered 12 per cent literacy rate, though in rural areas, it fell to 1.6 per cent in 1961.

Koris formed 9,724 or about 9.5 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population in 1961. In the rural areas, more than 40 per cent were then engaged in agriculture and a little less as agricultural labourers. About Koli or Kori 9 per cent were engaged in other services.

With 15 per cent urban literacy and 5 per cent rural literacy rate in 1961, Kolis are diverting their attention towards the betterment of their young generation.

Chidars formed 4,136 or about 4 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population and majority of them were engaged either in cultivation or as agricultural labourers in 1961. Barhar or Basod constituted 3,489 or about Chidar, Barhar 3 per cent of the Scheduled Caste population in 1961. About or Basod 44 per cent of them were then engaged in the household industry, namely, manufacture of bamboo articles, etc. About 20 per cent were either cultivators or agricultural labourers and about 8 per cent were engaged in other services. Educationally only 2.5 per cent of them were found literate in that year.

About 3 per cent (3,437) of the Scheduled Caste population was that of Bhangis or Mehtars in 1961. Almost the entire population of their workers in urban areas was engaged in scavenging while in the rural areas Bhangi or Mehtar, only 44 per cent did this work. About 23 per cent were agricultural labourers and about 11 per cent worked as cultivators. Dhanuk With 13 per cent of urban literacy in 1961, they exhibit some awakening towards education. The Dhanuks numbered 1,354 (1 per cent), of whom 1,246 stayed in rural areas in 1961.

Untouchability

The origin and extent of untouchability as an institutionalised practice could not be traced with any certainty in the District.

However, it is a fact that members of the Scheduled Castes have suffered from economic and social disabilities in the past and there was consistent crusade launched in the District by the followers of Mahatma Gandhi against untouchability.

With the attainment of Independence, under Article 17 of the Constitution, untouchability has been abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The Constitution also provides for special care for their education and economic interests and reservation of seats in the Legislature and civil services. There has definitely been an impact of these provisions in course of time and Vidisha District is reported to be one of the four districts in Madhya Pradesh where this evil never existed in alarming proportions.

Scheduled Tribes

Almost the entire bulk of the Scheduled Tribe population was found to be concentrated in rural areas and only a microscopic proportion traced in urban areas during the 1961 and 1971 Censuses. Almost the entire Scheduled Tribe population professes Hindu religion.

About 86 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe population was Seharia (in Vidisha, Basoda and Kurwai tahsils) or Sehria and Sahariaya (in Sironj and Lateri tahsils), and 12 per cent were Gond in 1961. About 75 per cent of them were either cultivators or agricultural labourers then. Literacy is very nominal (about 1 per cent in 1961) among them.

Seharia, Sehria and Sahariya

In Vidisha District Saharias are a principal tribe in Vidisha, Basoda and Kurwai tahsil. The economic condition of this tribe is appalling, though in urban and road side areas, they have started showing signs of adopting the way of local people. Their usual food consists of lesser millets and inferior cereals.

Hari Batholi or *Hahindar* and *Hali Banta* are the two systems under which they are employed as agricultural labourers. Under the former, they are given the agreed amount of remuneration in a lump sum at the time of employment and also food according to need and for all this a very high rate of interest is charged. Under the latter system, a Saharia is employed on payment in kind in the form of grain towards daily wages. Both the systems in their final analysis virtually result in turning him a bound slave. Saharias worship Hindu gods and goddesses, of whom Goddess Durga is revered the most. Marriage among them is generally performed at an early age. They also practised bigamy. Divorce and remarriage of widows are permitted among them.

Gond and Korku

Though comparatively less in number, these tribes inhabit the District and preserve their characteristic features as in the contiguous districts of Raisen, Sehore, Sagar and Guna.

Mina

Numbering 296 in 1961, Minas almost entirely live in rural areas of Sironj tahsil. A tribe scheduled only in Sironj sub-division of the District, the Minas probably belong to Rajasthan stock. Vidisha inherited their stock perhaps after the merger of Sironj sub-division, which till 1956 formed a part of the erstwhile Tonk State. In Rajasthan, the erstwhile States of Bundi and Karoli are the places where they abound. Of the many subcastes, Ujale, Raval, Paluri and Parihar are notable. They have no inter-caste relations. The Ethnographical Survey of the Central India Agency took note of "Ujla Minas" of the erstwhile Indore State who mostly resided in Rampura and Bhanpura *zila*.

Availing that one of their ancestors married into low caste and was ousted from the community, Minas claim their origin from the Ranas of Udaipur stock¹. The clan is endogamous and contains five *gotras* with various *shakhas*, the *gotras* being exogamous. Traditionally prohibiting *sagotra* marriage, early marriage was a rule in the past. Minas allow polygamy though prohibit polyandry. A Brahman is employed as priest and marriage takes the usual Hindu course. Adultery is not tolerated and is punishable with fines. At one time treated as a criminal tribe, according to A. V. Tharkhar, Minas now have settled mostly as cultivators, and were known for their gallantry and bravery during the World War as good soldiers. A few of them still pursue the same profession.

Religious Beliefs, Manners and Customs

The religious beliefs of different communities, prevalent in Vidisha are largely the projection of those prevalent in the adjoining tracts. It is a common practice in villages to dress little boys as girls to keep off the evil eye. Black colour, however, is very little affected by it, and hence soot, (*Kajal*) prepared out of oil or ghee flame, is applied to the eyes of children with a small mark of it on the forehead.

Among Korkus, traditionally, the dead are buried. The body is laid on its back, stripped naked and the head pointing to the south. They usually raise stone or wooden memorials called *gatha* in honour of the deceased.² *Pitarmiloni* and *Sidoli* are important rites among them. The former is the ceremony to recall the dead to lodge him with ancestors and the latter, the final rite after which the soul of the departed one rests in peace.

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1. C. E. Luard, *The Jungle Tribes of Malwa*, Monograph No. II, (Ethnographical Survey of Central India Agency) P, 66.
 2. The Tribes of Madhya Pradesh (Tribal Welfare Department), p. 49.

Traditionally, Gonds too bury the dead unlike other Hindus. The dead body of a child is buried under a Mahua tree.¹ But with the acculturation with caste Hindus, the tribal stock is also resorting to cremation of the dead. On the death of a respectable old person of any community, due esteem is accorded to the dead and a band is arranged to lead the funeral procession. It plays *Ram-Dhun*, devotional song, sad tune, and other similar notes suiting the occasion.

The first men to whom the *lari* (bride) will speak and show her face are her husband's younger brothers (*devars*). With these she has an informal relation. The relation contracts with complete restriction existing between the wife and her husband's elder brother (*jethi*). With *jeth* and *sasur* no conversation is allowed, and the wife must always keep her face veiled before them. Females do not generally dine until all the elder male members of the family have done so.

The man living in the parental household of his wife is known as *ghar jamai*. Here it is the wife who enjoys full freedom.

Inter Caste Relations

In the observance of socio-religious rites, all castes exhibit the same enthusiasm. If there is a bathing festival all take part in it. What is true of bathing festival is also true of all other festivals. No caste or sectarian differences are found there. Every one goes and bathes in the same water, drinks it for the sake of purification and pays homage to the sacred river, tank or pool.

Smoking is also the main sustained inter-caste activity. Hardly any one can pass a group in village or field without being asked to sit down and smoke a while. But the cloth held in cupped hands around the base of a stemless clay pipe (*chilam*) is not passed on to ritually lower group, who are required to have their own cloth, though the pipe remains common. The castes which smoke together generally constitute over half of the smoking population of any village.

New Religious Leaders and Movements

The District is historically associated with a Jain saint Taran Swami who founded a new sect. Although he was born in Delhi in 1505 V. S. (1448 A. D.) he migrated to the surroundings of Vidisha and settled down in the village of Semarkhedhi to a life of renunciation and meditation. His significance is great because he can be ranked with other contemporary saints of the north. His teachings recall those of Kabir and Guru Nanak. He believed in the

1. Prayagdatta Shukla, *Madhya Pradesh ki Aadim Jatiyan*, p. 31.

soul and its manifestation in time. His teachings have their basis in the Jain philosophy but his historic significance lies in his reformist zeal. He preached against dogmatism in religion and established the truth of brotherhood of men. The universality of his religious teaching brought within his fold not only the Jains but also followers of other sects and members of lower castes.

He has to his credit the following 14 books in the *Apbhransh* language :

1. *Shravakachar*
2. *Malaji*
3. *Pandit Puja*
4. *Kamal Battisi*
5. *Naya Samuchaya Sar*
6. *Updesh Sudhdhe Sar*
7. *Tribhangi Sar*
8. *Choubis Thena*
9. *Sunna Swabhava*
10. *Sidhdha Swabava*
11. *Malala Pahuda*
12. *Khatka Vishesh*
13. *Chadamsta Vani and*
14. *Namamale*



In *Pandit Puja* Taran Swami says : "Householders, you ask me what is worshipping of God ? My reply is the real worship of God is the worship of soul (self)." Self knowledge being central to his teaching, he emphasised the nature of soul, and a spiritual experience leading to the knowledge of the self. The greater the knowledge of the self, the quicker would be the release of the soul from earthly tentacles. For that reason, religious formalism was denounced by the saint and dogmatism and external show associated with religious worship discouraged.

In another book Taran Swami says, "The soul in its most sublime state is God. The soul is God, the spiritual *Guru*, the religion, and the holy place". The tremendous emphasis on the nature of soul resulted in founding of a cult which cut across shams of religions.

Swami Taran spent the best part of his life in Vidisha. His followers are to be found in many parts of Central India both among Hindus and Muslims. Among his followers was a Muslim named Ruiramana. Two kings of Central India, Man Shah Kumar and Shiv Kumar also became his disciples.

Joint Family System

Analysis of family composition as per Census 1961 is that heads of the households and the spouses of the heads accounted for 36.2 per cent of the household population.

The married relations consisting of sons and other male and female members constituted 16.6 per cent and unmarried, divorced and separated relations constituted 46.7 per cent of an average household in that year. The presence of married relations, divorced and other relations shows the existence of limited joint family pattern in the District.

Further analysed by size of households, the largest number of sample households, i. e., 8, 847 out of 19,809 were with 4 to 6 members each incidentally accounting for the largest sample household population, i. e., 43,443 out of 95,815 in 1961. The next numerous sample household population was found in households with 7 to 9 members (25,257). The urban families in the District have been reported to be bigger with 6.94 persons per occupied census house as compared to the rural ones with only 5.92 persons in census 1971. This depicts the pattern of joint family in existence against the traditional three generation or more member joint family pattern. The reasons for the disintegration of large family units are many and complex, though changing socio-economic factors of occupations, high cost of living, migration, etc., are some of the contributory factors.

Property and Inheritance

The Hindu Code Bill has been enacted to keep brothers and sisters on equal footing, as far as share of property and inheritance is concerned. However married sisters are indifferent to their rights. Inheritance among the Muslims is governed by their personal law. The transfer of property by wills is insignificant in the District. Separation of brothers is generally effected sometimes during the life time of the father, and property divided as decided earlier. As such legal proceedings are not frequent.

Marriage and Morals

As elsewhere, Hindus widely practise monogamy in the District. Though Islam sanctions polygamy to the extent of four wives, economic reasons are largely responsible for making monogamy the rule and polygamy an exception among them too. Tribals resort to polygamy because female participation rate among them in gainful economic activity, usually, is considerable. Among Caste Hindus, polygamy is looked down upon, though under special circumstances, the traditions sanction it. It is uncommon among the general masses, though ■ very few among the two extremes of the society for reasons of

dignity or economic considerations or otherwise, sometimes, resort to polygamy. This is borne out by the figures of married males and females in the District. While there were 119,098 married males in 1961, there were 119,698 married females. Polyandry is not in vogue in any caste.

Traditional Restrictions on Marriage Alliances

Among Hindus, a man should not marry in his *gotra*, nor should he marry in particular months. Generally the union of the first cousins is avoided, though among tribal groups it is a preferential type of marriage. Inter-caste marriages are still not favoured. In orthodox families, tallying of horoscope is a prerequisite of marriage settlement.

Marriage Customs and Rituals

The traditional marriage customs are age-old and are still followed broadly. People perform the marriage ceremony according to their economic and social status. With minor variations here and there, the rituals are practically the same in all the castes. The engagement ceremony is performed in advance, known as *sagai* or *teeka*. After that *lagan* is sent from the bride's side to the groom's side. It contains details of programmes connected with the various marriage ceremonies.

In all castes, the bridegroom goes to the bride's village with relatives and friends. This party is called *barat*. Before the departure of the *barat* among a few castes in the District, the bridegroom goes round the houses of his friends and relatives in the village. He gets some amount in cash in the name of *tilak* from each person on whom he calls. This is called *vinayaki*.¹ In towns too this custom is in vogue in a few castes. Caste Hindus invite relatives and friends for marriage dinner. They bring presents for the groom on the occasion. This is known as *vyavahar*.

When the *barat* reaches the bride's abode, the groom is presented with clothes and gifts. The function is known as *Dwarchar*. Thereafter, the bride is presented with clothes and ornaments from the groom's side. This ceremony is called *ganavna* or *chadhava*. Then *bhanwar* is performed, presided over by a priest, who also administers solemn oaths to the couple for ideal marital behaviour. At this time *havan* is also performed. After this, on the bride's side, relatives and friends of her parents and her own, give some cash or make presents at the time of *pair-pakharna*.

1. Ghanshyam Sharan Bhargava, *Sironj ka Itihas*, p. 154.

When the bride reaches her father-in-law's house for the first time, the new relatives present her with some cash amount and ornaments, in the name of *muh-dikhai*. On occasions such as marriage, etc., the entire caste and sometimes the village community as a whole is invited for community meals. This is known as *pangat*.

The Gonds have exogamous totemic septs. A man must not marry within his own sept nor should he marry in a sept which worships the same number of gods. Cross-cousin marriage (*dudhlautana*) is the preferential form of marriage. Besides the regular form of marriage, marriage by service, marriage by mutual consent, marriage by capture and marriage by intrusion are also practised. Gonds are now considerably Hinduised. With the growing acculturation of tribal stock, a lot of change has taken place in the institution of marriage among the Gonds. In the past, normally the girl was free to be wooed by the man of her choice from among the potential mates. But in marriages today it is not merely a matter of personal choice or a private affair between the two individuals; it is equally the concern of the family, of the village community and of the caste.¹

The rigidity in matters of dowry is gradually vanishing, though in some or the other form it is ingrained in a Hindu marriage. The dowry varies from cash to kind among a few or both and is given by the girl's father. While there is per-settlement in a few cases, among others it is left to the sweet will of the girl's parents. Among the economically and socially less privileged castes and tribes, on the contrary, the practice of bride-price is prevalent. Among the Gonds, the transference of the bride-price is the sociolegal stamp of a valid marriage.² However, as far as the legal side is concerned, not a single case was registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, since its inception till the end of the decade.

The frequency of inter-caste marriages is not significant in the District owing to lack of social support. Sub-caste marriages are, however, becoming more frequent. Civil marriages in the District are also infrequent. Under the Special Marriage Act 1954, only nine cases were registered during the years 1964 to 1968, out of which in five cases permission for marriage was granted and four were rejected. Two cases under the Special Marriage Act 1954, during the year 1970 and 12 cases under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, during 1970-71 were registered in the District.

1. Bulletin of the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Chhindwara (Madhya-Pradesh) June 1964, p. 28.

2. *ibid.* op. cit., p. 28.

The marital age varies sharply from caste to caste. Except educated families, others adhere to the old practice, and prefer to marry their daughters before they attain the age of puberty.

About 9.6 per cent of the married females in 1961 were found married during the age-group 0-14. By the age of 19 years very few girls remain unmarried while, among boys, the unmarried population beyond 24 years was negligible.

Widow marriage is prohibited among upper caste Hindus, though among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes it is a common feature. Among Tribes the widow can remarry. It is called *natra*, or *baithna*. Marriage of Widows In widow marriage or in the event of *natra*, the usual marriage ceremonies like *sapt padi* etc., are not performed. Only a pair of dress with *bichhua* is given to the bride from the side of the groom, which she wears. Among the Gonds, a widow is allowed to remarry, preferably one of her kinsmen, the younger brother of her late husband having the first claim.¹

Hindus disapprove of divorce, though the practice is widely prevalent among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The traditions approve the practice among them. It is resorted to with the permission of the caste panchayat. The wife simply runs away to some other person of her choice. The former husband in such cases surrenders the right on his wife after getting some amount from the new person. This amount is called *jhagde-ki-rakam*. The reasons of such divorces are generally tender age of the husband, poverty and constant disputes between them or with the mother-in-law.

As caste panchayats are effective bodies to award judgement on personal or social life of its members, such cases are seldom brought before the court of law. Since 1961 till 1968, no couple in the District took divorce through court except only one in the year 1966. In the year 1969-70, only one couple took divorce under the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. There were no such cases either in the year 1968-69 or 1970-71.

Economic Dependence of Women

Traditionally it is the work of women to run the household affairs only. Service in any economic activity by the ladies of the Hindus was considered below the prestige of the family. Economically, major section of women in urban areas of the District is wholly or partly dependent on the men. In rural areas their participation in economic activities is usually high. With 307 female workers

1. *ibid.* June, 1964, p. 30.

per 1000 of the total population in the District, their working population increased to 334 in rural and receded to only 127 in urban areas in 1961. Female participation in other services was 45 per cent and in 'transport, storage and communications' only 8 per cent in rural areas in that year. Again, as against 192,928 male workers in the District in 1971, only 33,821 were females, and a majority of them (31,671) was economically active in the rural areas, mostly as agricultural labourers (26,330). Out of a total of 2,150 female workers in urban areas, more than 50 per cent (1,028) were engaged in other services in 1971. During recent years much awakening has dawned upon them with the rapid advancement of education. "Emancipation (of women) is filtering right down to the villages, and that too, within a short period. Not only are all rights of citizenship conceded to women,.....but Acts such as the Hindu Marriage Act and the Hindu succession Act have been passed, bringing the major section of Indian women socially on par with men. Thus the ground for the equality of the sexes is prepared".¹

During the period 1963-68, no case was registered under the suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act, 1956. In the year 1968-70 it was reported that there were 30 prostitutes in Sironj, 8 in Basoda and 2 in Vidisha. Tradition sanctions drinks among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Liquor assumes an important role in their social and religious life too. On all festive occasions, both social and religious, local wine is thus freely consumed. With the scrapping of the Prohibition Law, though there is no restriction on the drinks now, in general the District is free from the major evils of drinking. Gambling still continues to be a source of entertainment and addiction with a few, though it has changed its traditional form and has acquired many new ways. Playing-cards generally are the principal means of gambling. Under the Gambling Act 1939, in all 129 and 196 cases were registered in the year 1968 and 1970, respectively. The number of cases in which convictions were made from the year 1968 to 1970 was 112,97 and 153 respectively. The acquittal was effected in 10, 6 and 2 cases, respectively.

Home Life

In 1961, the number of dwelling structures of all types occupied by the residents numbered 96,106 (rural 83,894 and urban 12,212). This meant 103.42 households per 100 occupied houses receding to 102.24 in rural and increasing to 111.57 in urban areas. In 1971, the number of occupied residential houses in the District was 100,063 (86,577 in rural and 13,486 in urban areas). The number of households was 117,734 (100,023 in rural and 17,711 in urban areas). The number of

Type of
Dwellings

1. Taya Zinkin, *Challenges in India*, p. 199.

households per 100 occupied houses thus, came to 117.66 being 115.53 in rural and 131.33 in urban areas. The proportion of households to houses was therefore, more than the State average (114.63) in 1971.

In villages, generally, houses are of mud and have only the ground floor. *Pakka* houses are infrequent. In the towns, poor people live in mud-made *kachcha* houses, whereas, economically better off people live in *pakka* houses made of bricks or stones or both. In 1961, largest number (12,164 or about 60 per cent) of dwellings contained only one room followed by two room structures (4,734 or about 23 per cent) accomodating majority of the District population. The household having three or more rooms numbered only 2913 or about 17 per cent of the total households in the District. Some indication of congestion in living accommodation can be had from the fact that an average size of household¹ in the District consisted of 4.93 persons in 1961 and 5.57 persons in 1971 against the State average of 4.89 and 5.40 persons in 1961 and 1971, respectively.

The village-homes are subjected to traditional and indigenous type of furniture, decorated with orthodox traditional patterns. In every village the patel, the sarpanch, the teacher and a few other officials of the government or the local body are the only persons who keep a few of the items, viz., *takht*, bench, chair, table, stool, etc.

The prevalent dress-pattern of agri.cultural class is a short *dhoti*, *bandi* and *pagri* for males and *lehenga*, *odhni* and *choli* for females. For festive occasions red, yellow, or green coloured muslins are purchased and garments made in the village itself by some local tailor. In towns ready-made garments are fast coming in vogue which are purchased from the local weekly *hat*. Synthetic fibre clothes such as those made of tereylene, nylon, etc., are getting popular owing to their durability and fine texture. Except for a few educated persons in towns and villages all the rest prefer village-made shoes and *chappals*, which are strong enough to bear the rigours of manual work in the field. The indigenous shoes manufactured in Sironj are even today famous for their sturdy service and durability.

Golden *kantha* or *janzeer* or chain in the neck, buttons, and costly finger-rings are the only ornaments seen among the rich members of business community, especially belonging to *Vaishyas*. With common men, the fashion is confined to finger-rings of various alloys. The rural women are extremely fond of silver ornaments. Women of upper and middle class families adorn themselves with gold or silver ornaments whereas others are contended with brass, bell-metal and in many cases

1. As regards a household, the Census definition envisages only a common kitchen irrespective of relationship.

with imitation jewellery. The former wear earrings (*zoomki*), tops (*bala*) in the ears, *nath* or *long* on the nose, necklace, *har*, *bajatti*, *nidana*, *locket*, etc., round the neck; *kangan*, *chude*, *patti*, *dast-band*, *chudi* on the hands, armlet, *tadde* or *bhujband* on the arms, and *tagdi*-(*kardhani*) on the waist. Apart from these, silver-*zoomki*, *karnfool*, *chouga*, *khanwari*, *Kathla*, *hasali*, *chude*, *kaknia*, *pichholi*, *johri*, *gajra*, *kakana*, *batane*, *gol*, *chhala*, *aarasi*, *aayalen*, *payalen*, *lachchhe*, *toda*, *kade*, *gunj*, *bichhue*, *onta*, *bicchudi*, etc., are some other ornaments worn by the women.

Wheat is the staple food of the District populace with milk and milk-products for proper nourishment especially among the rich and middle class people.

Food *Puri*, *kachori*, *halwa*, *jalebi*, *milk*, *ghi*, *khir*, *phulki*, rice (plain and sweet), curries, *bara*, *phulori*, *dal*, *dahi* and sweets are the usual items of food, frequently eaten by them depending upon the occasion. Among the poor classes, *bajra* and *jowar* or gram bread form the staple food with *dal*, vegetables, etc. Porridge, known as *maheri* or *rabri* is also eaten. The use of vegetables and fruits is limited to economically better off classes and to those who grow them.

The modes of public amusements are rapidly changing. *Nach* and dramas have been gradually replaced by the cinemas. Even rural folk flock to towns to see films. There are five cinema houses in the District, and the location of two each at Vidisha and Basoda shows the popularity of picture houses. The fifth one is located at Sironj. Touring-talkies also visit the District, especially during the fairs and festivals. Local social organisations celebrate festivals like Holi, Rangapanchami, Makar-Sankranti, etc., on community basis. Their enthusiasm and fraternal feelings are refreshing to watch. In very small villages the whole village participates in these socio-religious festivities as a compact unit. In Sironj, *Tyohar sabhas*, organised in Kathali, Hajipur and Katla areas celebrate festivals like Dussehra, Rangapanchami, etc., collectively.

Organised at Lateri town in the month of December, Lateri mela lasts for 25 days. Amongst the important religious fairs, 15 days' Sankrant fair in January at Rajghat Barat (Basoda Tahsil), 15 days' Ramlila fair in December/January at Basoda Mandi (Basoda Tahsil), 12 days' Ramlila fair in January at Gyaraspur (Vidisha Tahsil), 9 days' Navratri fair in March/April at Ghatwar (Sironj) and 7 days' Shivaratri fair in February/March at Udaipur may be mentioned. Jagdish Rath yatra in June/July at Bodankhedi (Basoda Tahsil) and 2 days' Jagdish mela in June at Manora (Vidisha), are also largely attended. Special mention may be made in this regard of a 3 days' Jain mela in January/February at Sironj. About four miles from Sironj, Nisai Semalkhedi village is the

principal *teerth* of Taranpanthi sect of jains, where they congregate on Basant Panchmi festival in a large number from far and near. At Nilkantheshwar temple in Sironj, an annual fair is held in the nearby "Ganpuri Bagh". This temple is said to be the place where *ling pindl* has been erected in such a way that the first ray of the Sun strikes it, whether the Sun is *Uttarayan* or *Dakshinayan*.

Performers of *Ramlila* are invited during *Navratri*, preceding the Dussehra festival. Similar other communal festivities are largely woven around main festivals. In villages, on festive occasions, *Folk dances* such as *Raslengi chachad* and *rai* are performed. *Dholak*, *manjeere* and *Festivities* *dhap jhanjhar* and *ghungru* are common musical instruments to the accompaniment of which folk dances and folk songs are usually presented to the spectators. Tracing the District's rich historical traditions during the time of Raja Bhoj, it is said that "Lavanya Sundari", a beautiful classical and *rai*-dancer hailed from this region. Performed by the professionals, known as *bednis*, *rai* is a characteristic folk-dance of this region, usually performed on the occasion of any festival or marriage. Decked in colourful dress and veil on the face, *rai* is usually danced in the torch-light. In the accompaniment of five to eight musical instruments it is performed on the rhythm of *dadariya* and *keharya*. The principal instruments are *dholak*, *manjire*, *chhoti-nakari*, *sinka*, *mandal* and *algoza*. The dance in fact starts with slow rhythm and music, which gradually increases to a very fast pace. The accompanying songs are usually romantic and in the nature of question-answer as :

*Ho hira panna ki khan,
mori bindiya men hira tadain then*

(bring for me a diamond and adore it in my bindiya)

*Gori tope jiyara libhuai,
nek nain se nain ladai le.*

(You are very attractive, let us exchange glances)

Before the emergence of Madhya Bharat, physical exercises, athletics, gymnastics, wrestlings, etc; were much popular sports. Some *vyayam shalas* still exist in towns and big villages. Later, hockey, foot-ball
Public Games volley-ball etc., drew the attention of the youths with the spread of education. There are certain games which are played on selected occasions. Kite-flying and *gulli-danda* on Makar Sakranti and cards on Diwali, especially on *Dhin teras* are notable examples. Ladies enjoy long swings in *zoolas* hung high up on big trees in the month of Sravana.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

The paramount importance of agriculture in this District is manifest by the very fact that, 75 per cent of the total workers of the whole District were either cultivators or agricultural labourers at the Census of 1961. In actual numbers there were 1,22,626 cultivators (males 87,207, females 35,419) and 51,315 agricultural labourers (males 32,119 females 19,196) out of 2,31,250 total workers (males 1,60,426 females 70,824). According to the figures of the 1971 Census, this percentage was 83.42. In actual numbers out of the total workers (2,26,749) there were 1,05,933 cultivators and 83,211 agricultural labourers. The large number of agricultural labourers here, instead of being a sign of the conditions of poverty, is an indication of the rich cultivators class of Vidisha which can well afford to employ labour for raising its crops. This is reflected in the prevalent system of Chetuas, the labourers' class which turns up in numbers at the cropping season, coming mostly from outside the District. They cut the crops of the cultivator and take a minimal share of the produce as the cost of their labour. This comparative richness of the Vidisha cultivator is apparently due to the rich soil and the bountiful nature. The tract was sparsely cultivated not more than 60 years ago and Captain Luard, the author of the Gwalior State Gazetteer, had many misgivings when in 1907 he observed, "Ample room for the extension of cultivation exists; but it is impossible to hope for any great increase in this direction unless the population rises considerably especially in Malwa where owing to very sparse population the finest soil is lying fallow."¹ Conditions have now changed entirely after Independence and Vidisha has the highest per capita net sown area in the State, viz., 1.94 acres.

Agricultural Holdings

There were in all 53,203 holdings in the District² out of which about half were rather small holdings up to 7.5 acres. There were 6,907 holdings of less than one acre; 5,027 between 1 and 2.50 acres; 7,922 between 2.50 and 5 acres, and 6,507 between 5 and 7.5 acres. Then, there were 5,061 holdings between 7.5 and 10 acres; 11,366 holdings between 10 and 20 acres; 4,534 holdings between 20 and 30 acres; 2,303 between 30 and 40 acres; 1,217 between 40 and 50 acres and 2,359 of over 50 acres. That way Vidisha is one of those districts which have comparatively large number of big holdings.

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 57.

2. *District Census Handbook*, 1961, p. xix.

As to the share of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in agriculture, 76 per cent of the workers amongst them are engaged either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. This is in keeping with the general occupational trend of the District.

Land Utilization

The table given below portrays the pattern of land utilization in the District as it existed in the year 1971-72.

Table No. IV-1

Land Utilization (1971-72)

	In 1000 Hectares
1. Area according to village papers	730
2. Forest	81
3. Not available for cultivation	33
(a) Land put to non-agricultural uses	24
(b) Barren and Unculturable land	38
4. Culturable waste	
5. Other uncultivated land	53
(a) Permanent pastures and other grazing lands	—
(b) Miscellaneous tree crops, and groves	
6. Fallow lands	4
(a) Current fallows	6
(b) Old fallows	491
7. Net area sown	10
8. Area sown more than once	501
9. Total cropped area	

Comparison of statistics of Vidisha from an earlier period is not feasible because of various territorial changes in the structure of the District from time to time. As such it may be safer to confine the statistical study from the year 1955-56, when the last of the series of territorial adjustments took place.

Area under Forest

The forests in the District which covered 1,11,225 acres in 1956-57 were shown to be 1,96,901 acres in 1964-65 but this increase is mainly due to the reconciliation of area shown under forest. It does not reflect any genuine increment in forest lands. Forests were recorded as 81 thousand ha in 1971-72.

Regarding the "land not available for cultivation", land put to non-agricultural uses has shown some increase from 68,667 acres in 1956-57 to 82,375 acres

in 1964-65, while barren and unculturable land has declined steeply from 2,20,561 to 67,186 acres during the same years. The respective area during 1971-72, were 33 and 24 thousand ha. Permanent pastures and grazing lands which measured 37,570 acres in 1956-57, stood at 1,99,652 acres in 1964-65. Evidently this is due to mutual transfer of land between two heads, barren and unculturable land and permanent pastures and grazing lands. Land under the latter land-use was 53 thousand ha in 1971-72. Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves has never been large, being only 1,030 acres in 1956-57, which increased to 7,025 acres in 1964-65. The figure for 1967-68 was only 67 ha.

Reclamation of Land

These fluctuations in figures of utilization of land are not so much an indication of a real or radical change in the complexion of the land as due to continuous efforts being made for a realistic classification according to use. Culturable waste lands have continuously shrunk in area. They came down from 4.58 lakh acres in 1956-57 to 2.04 lakh acres in 1961-62 and further to 1.77 lakh acres in 1964-65. The relevant area was 56,771 ha in 1967-68 which declined to 38 thousand ha in 1971-72. Of this culturable waste, 27 thousand ha can be put under the plough immediately, four thousand ha after some improvement, and the rest, seven thousand ha could be reclaimed only after prohibitive cost. It may be interesting to note that most of this had been laid waste due to the unstinted growth of a weed *kans* which had at a time assumed alarming proportions and posed a challenge to the Government. This baffling problem attracted the attention of the Government right from the formation of Madhya Bharat and expert consultations were held. A scheme for the eradication of *kans* was included in the First Five year Plan and the work taken up in right earnest with the help of tractors obtained from the Central Tractor Organisation. *Kans* infested area of 1,06,824 acres was thus reclaimed. Besides the C. T. O. tractors the Tractor Unit of the former Madhya Bharat State was also pressed into service and 30,970 acres were liberated from the tentacles of this pernicious weed during the First Plan. The effort and success on the Government level induced rich farmers of the District to purchase their own tractors and this brought about the breaking of 7,791 acres of new land during the first plan itself. Cultivators who could ill-afford to purchase tractors reclaimed 19,932 acres of land with the help of bullock power during the same period. For assisting private effort in this direction Government advanced *taccavi* loans amounting to Rs. 2.59 lakhs¹. This scheme also covered fallow lands other than current fallows' as these lands lying uncultivated for a long

1. *Madhya Bharat Ki Pratham Panch Varshiya Yojana*, Vidisha, pp. 7-8.

time are very much prone to the growth of that fast growing weed *kans*. Continued efforts in this direction caused a perceptible decrease in such areas in the years that followed during the Second and Third Plans and laid a firm base for success in the expansion of cultivation. Thus, as already stated, the area under culturable waste showed a definite downward trend from the year 1956-57 onward.

Other cultivable lands actually not cultivated include fallow lands which again comprise current fallows and old fallows. These fallows have declined considerably in extent and were recorded as four and six thousand ha. respectively, in 1967-68.

Owing to Government efforts, in the form of eradication of *kans* and provision of incentives for development of agriculture, enlightened self-interest of farmers, high prices and rising demand for agricultural produce, more and more of lands have been brought under the plough through the years and the sown area has increased continuously. From 8.44 lakh acres in 1956-57 (which amounted to 46.7 per cent of the District area) the net sown area increased to 9.55 lakh acres in 1961-62 (52.9 per cent) and 10.40 lakh acres (57.7 per cent) in 1964-65. Net sown area was reckoned as 4.63 lakh ha in 1967-68, equivalent to 64.9 per cent of the area of the District—an astonishing record of expansion of the frontiers of cultivation. It further increased to 4.91 thousand ha in 1971-72. Culturable waste has contributed the largest share in this expansion. Current and old fallows have also shrunk to reinforce this phenomenon. Extension of cultivation has taken place perhaps on all possible lands.

Irrigation

Irrigation does not ever seem to have been conspicuously used in farming in the District. Perhaps the richness of the soil, and numerous streams and rivers intersecting the District acted as a damper on investment in irrigation. Restrictions on poppy cultivation gave a further set-back to the use of irrigation. Irrigation statistics go to show that irrigated area has all along been quite small and has not reached even one per cent of the cropped area. However, irrigation facilities have been increasing rapidly since the beginning of the Five Year Plan era and from 858 acres of irrigated area in 1951-52 they expanded to 1,798 acres in 1956-57; 2,338 acres in 1961-62 and 4,768 acres in 1964-65. The irrigated area amounted to 3,501 ha in 1967-68, and 4,205 ha in 1972-73. Though by itself the progress of irrigation may be rapid, yet it has not touched even the fringe of the problem, i.e. dearth of irrigation facilities. Extension of agriculture has been at a much faster pace than that of irrigation.

Till the year 1972-73, wells contributed the largest share in the irrigated area of the District. From the year 1967-68, canals have proved more popular

and useful. Canals have appeared as the major and expanding source of irrigation. The canal irrigation area rose from just 9 acres in 1951-52 to 1,739 acres in 1964-65. It was 2,286 ha in 1967-68 and 1,227 ha in 1972-73. Tank irrigation is negligible, though it has been stated that, "There were 38 tanks in olden days, the important among them being at Vidisha, Gadhala, Gyarspur, Teonga, Udaipur and Bara."¹ May be they were intended as recreation resorts and add to the beauty of the towns. The tract of the District where wells are being used for irrigation consists of Vidisha, Kurwai, Sironj and Basoda Tahsil area. The depth of water generally found is between 30 and 40 feet. The water is raised by means of *charas*, pumps, etc. The approximate cost of digging a *kaccha* and *pucca* well is Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 8,000, respectively.

Development of Irrigation

The development of irrigation in the former Gwalior State started with the accession of the princely ruler Madho Rao Scindia. There was a devastating famine in 1898 and again in 1900, and the Ruler decided to constitute a special Irrigation Department in the year 1905. He was keen to get the minor irrigation works constructed in all districts of the State. This policy was followed by the Irrigation Department of the State till 1914. The genesis of irrigation thus lay in the distress caused by famines. Darbar advanced loans for construction of wells in tracts where this form of irrigation could be had economically. Interest was charged at four per cent during the first year of construction and at six per cent during the subsequent years. Besides, irrigated land was assessed at dry rates up to the next settlement. The construction of minor irrigation tanks was taken up as a result of the Grow More Food Campaign from the year 1944 onwards, and some funds were made available to each District for the execution of these works. Due to recurring food shortages, irrigation was given a further fillip under the Five Year Plan, as an essential ingredient of agricultural development.

Kethan, a medium irrigation project, was included in the Second Five Year Plan of the District but it remained only under survey and investigation during the period. The project envisages the construction of a dam 3,190 feet (972 metres) long and 59.5 ft. (18 metres) high across the Kethan river. Estimated to cost Rs. 20 lakhs, it was designed to irrigate an area of 5,000 acres in Vidisha District.

A major irrigation project-Halali was included in the Third Plan. The project envisages the construction of a reserve across the Halali river with the raising of a 1,980 ft. long and 97 ft. high dam. Besides Vidisha, the project will

1. District Census Handbook, 1961, p. xiii

benefit Raisen district also. An area of 81,600 acres will be irrigated with 64 miles of canals. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

Irrigation Projects

The tanks which reached a total of 67 till the year 1967-68 include among them many newly constructed ones as well as 40 of the older ones which have been renovated and repaired. They are designed to irrigate 14,755 acres. Of these 59 tanks are being used for inside irrigation whereas 8 have been set for outside irrigation. By inside irrigation is meant bed-cultivation around the tanks, while outside irrigation denotes construction of canal systems leading out of the tanks. Work on a few of these tanks and on one canal system, namely, that of Bhilaya tank in Basoda Tahsil, is reported to be in progress.

Till 1967-68 there were 7 canal systems in existence with a mileage of about 50. These include Jajone and Phupher tanks in Basoda Tahsil; Ghatara and Jamwar tanks in Vidisha Tahsil; Sakhlone and Jawari tanks in Sironj Tahsil, and Ghosuwa tank in Kurwai Tahsil. Of these, Jajone, apart from being the largest tank of the District with a designed irrigation capacity of 3,200 acres, has the largest canal system also with a length of 17 miles. It was constructed during the years from 1964 to 1967. The cost of Jajone tank project, alongwith its canal system is about Rs. 20 lakhs. Ghatara tank project with a cost of Rs. 9.44 lakhs comes next. Other projects cost less than Rs. 5 lakhs each.

The Table given below shows the Plan-wise progress of irrigation projects in the District at a glance. The apparent discrepancy in the number of canals and their mileage is due to the fact that Ghosuwa tank with its canal system has not been included in this Table as the work was incomplete.

Table No. IV-2
Progress of Irrigation Projects during the Plan Periods

Year	Canals		Tanks				Total		
	No.	Mileage	Inside Irrigation		Outside Irrigation		Tanks	Designed Area	
			No.	Designed Area	No.	Designed Area			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Before 1950-51	—	—	23	1,900	—	—	—	23	1,900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1950-51								
to	Main							
1955-56	Canal	1						
	Minors 2	7	3	550	1	1,600	4	2,150
1956-57	Main 2	20	10	2,625	2	3,930	12	6,555
to	Canal							
1960-61	Minors 4							
1961-62								
to	Main Canals 3	10	23	1,590	3	1,840	26	3,430
1965-66	Minors 3							
1966-67	Minors 2	5	—	—	1	120	1	120
1967-68	„ 1	3	—	—	1	600	1	600
Total	Main canals 6	45	59	6,665	8	8,090	67	14,755
„	Minors 12							

The execution of petty irrigation schemes has been entrusted to the Agricultural Department. These schemes include deepening, boring and repair of wells, installation of pumping-sets and the like. The progress of these schemes during the Five years from April 1963 to March 1968 is given below :

1. Construction of new wells	2,047
2. Repair of old wells	734
3. Installation of diesel pumps	277
4. Installation of Persian wheels	165
5. Installation of electric pumps	76
6. Loans to cooperative societies for lift irrigation	15
7. Deepening of wells	143

A scheme for the installation of tube-wells in the District has been drawn up. To start with 3 villages in Vidisha Tahsil and 12 in Basoda Tahsil will have tube-wells to benefit 6,000 acres of agricultural land, at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.20 lakhs. Besides, the waters of the rivers and nullahs have been exploited for irrigation through the modern means of electric irrigation pumps. A total of 139 of these pumps have been introduced at different places, 85 of them being in Vidisha on the Betwa river and 30 in Basoda also on the Betwa. Sironj with 6 and Kurwai with 7 pumps on the Kethan and Betwa rivers, respectively, come among other places having such pumps. Other places include Gulabganj, Karania Rojroo, Hinotia, Dodokheda, Bishanpur and Khambookheda. Besides, a sum of Rs. 1.90 lakh is proposed to be spent on additional electric irrigation pumps to be installed in five villages of Vidisha, Basoda and Kurwai tahsils, covering an area of 950 acres during the Fourth Plan period.

The rivers of the District do not offer much scope for flow irrigation. The Bah taking off from hill ranges of Shamshabad and the Halali in the south flowing through steep valleys flanked by high hills offer good sites for development of irrigation projects to serve the plains of Basoda and Vidisha tahsils, respectively.

Soil-Erosion

Problem of soil-erosion is not acute in the District but deforestation has introduced zerophytic conditions and has brought about lowered sub-soil water level. However, plantations of trees and schemes of contour bunding have minimised the erosion of soil. Soil-conservation measures undertaken during the five years from 1963-64 to 1967-68 have achieved contour bunding of 22, 248 acres and bunding of 81,719 acres of cropped area, besides application of dry farming method in 3,57,249 acres. Till 1970-71, contour bunding had been done in an area extending over 70,000 acres. During the year 1970-71, 20,000 acres of bund were planted with castor N. P. H.-I which is expected to give an outturn of Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

Soil

"Agriculture here is a form of land piracy the cultivator taking all that the soil can give and giving it back nothing. The soil is fertile over a large part of the district but the fields require constant attention. Once neglected they become overgrown with *Kans*, a weed which when established requires much labour and capital to eradicate."¹ This statement made in the 1951 Census Report of Madhya Bharat is as expository in its form as it is dramatic in its beginning. It elucidates how rich attributes of the local soil are able to sustain its continuous exploitation and also its somewhat natural outcome. The habit of the local cultivator persisting through generations does not admit of ■ replenishment of these attributes. However, this long neglect is now being made up with the advent of planning era, in the shape of the slogan-return to the soil what you take from it.

The soil in the District is generally *kali-matti* called black cotton soil. It is named *mar* in local dialect. It is very good for wheat. But its utility is reduced considerably if *kans* is allowed to grow on it. It is a rich black loamy soil with a high degree of fertility and extraordinary power of retaining moisture. The soil is not very deep. From the available analytical data it is observed that the soil of the District contains 30-50 per cent clay.

The major portion of the District with the exception of Lateri tahsil is in the Betwa river basin. The entire District could thus be divided into

1. Quoted in District Census Handbook, 1961 Vidisha District, p. xiii.

valleys formed between the Betwa and its larger tributaries. The *duab* formed by the Bah river in the north and the Betwa in the south has the richest cultivated area of Vidisha tahsil. Small patches of good land are available near Shamshabad in the west and around Nateran in the east. The tract between the Kethan and Nateran forms the major portion of Kurwai tahsil where also the lands are quite rich though not as good as the plains of Vidisha and Basoda tahsils. The entire central tract is very rich because of the silt deposits and has been one of the major wheat growing districts of the erstwhile Gwalior State and now of Madhya Pradesh.

Inferior types of soils found in the District are *kabar*, an inferior *mar* with lower power of retaining moisture, *parua*, a greyish sandy soil, *dumat*, similar to the last but of a more clayey consistency and *rankar*, the stony soil commonly found at the base of hills and in the gneissic area. Soil samples are sent every year for chemical analysis which provides a scientific basis for proper study of the composition of the District. The general results obtained from this analysis are as follows : P. H. Value 7.5; water-holding capacity very high; nitrogen, poor; potash and phosphorous, rich. The acidic and alkaline patches are very rare in this District.

Crops

Vidisha is predominantly a *rabi* crop area, the proportion of *rabi* to *kharif* being 65 : 35 in the year 1971-72. In the same year 391.8 thousand hectares were devoted to the cultivation of *rabi* crops and 109.6 thousand hectares to *kharif* crops. Amongst the crops, wheat is the most important crop, commanding 50 per cent of the cropped area of the District in 1971-72. Next in importance came gram and *jowar* each of which was responsible for 18 and 8 per cent of the cropped area respectively, in the same year the latter of which is by far the largest *kharif* crop of the District.

The area sown under food crops during the year 1971-72 was 423 thousand hectares which was equivalent to 84 per cent of the cropped area of the District in 1971-72. Non-food crops claimed 16 per cent, the

Crop Pattern most important of them being the oilseed crops. One important feature of the cropping pattern of the District is the discontinuance of cultivation of poppy which once had a thriving trade in the region. But this has also resulted in the release of some of the best lands for the raising of food crops. But the lands previously under poppy cultivation seem to have lost the advantage of irrigation (which was a must for poppy) as the area irrigated in the enlarged District of Vidisha (1951-52) did not even equal the irrigated area of former Bhilsa district in 1900-01.

Here some observations regarding the crop position and its planning in the former Gwalior region may be of interest. "Particularly in a region like Gwalior where crop rotation has been revolutionized through the sudden diminution of poppy and cotton in certain tracts and by the difficulties of irrigation everywhere, a judicious selection of crops and crop rotation should be regarded as essential in agricultural policy."¹ Wheat as well as *jowar* had greatly fallen in their acreage, mainly due to inadequate irrigation and large size of average holding which is a great handicap to intensive or even sufficient tilling of the soil and the proper preservation of moisture by well irrigation, which might have maintained both the area and efficiency of wheat farming. Conditions have much changed since then. Improvement after two decades in cropping practices and advent of large-scale irrigation do not present the same gloomy aspect.

Radha Kamal Mukerjee's suggestions for agricultural improvement in the District also deserve a mention. 1. Survey of the sources of irrigation and of the areas that may be commanded by irrigation from tanks and reservoirs or by flood irrigation. 2. Introduction of adaptive varieties of rice, *jowar* and maize in the *kharif* season. 3. Introduction of dryfarming system of cultivation for wheat, gram, oil-seeds and other *rabi* crops. 4. Introduction of dairy farming along with wheat cultivation with the use of fodder from *bhusa* and *jowar* stalks stored as a reserve. 5. Drainage of water-logged area. 6. Introduction of tobacco, castor seed, potatoes, chillies and other vegetables into the crop-planning adjusted appropriately for both irrigated and unirrigated conditions.

Most soils in the District are capable of bearing two crops and double cropped area of Vidisha amounts to 10 thousand ha (1971-72). Mixed sowings are also common. *Jowar* is sown in the same field with *tuar*, maize with *urad* and wheat with linseed. The agricultural year contains two seasons, the *kharif* or *shialu*, the autumn crop season and the *rabi* or *unhalu* the spring crop season.

Agricultural Operations

All the operations are carried out with reference to the rain-fall and in the manner in which they are generally performed in all other places of Malwa tract. In Malwa, fields are first broken up and cleared of weeds by means of the *bakhar*, a sort of *harrow* or weeding plough. Ploughing (*halna*) for the autumn crops then commences about the end of May. As soon as sufficient rain has fallen to moisten the soil the field is sown (*boni*). The spring crops are sown till October, the ground being ploughed several times in

1. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, *Planning the Countryside*, p. 39.

order to enable the land to absorb as much moisture as possible. A local adage also testifies to it. It says, *Kartik mahat hal joto. tang pasar ghar manhi soto*, which means, by ploughing even in night hours (early morning) in the month of Kartik one is not required to bother for the rest of the period and can enjoy undisturbed sleep." Small seeds such as sesamum, linseed, etc., are sown broadcast, but the larger classes of seed, such as, *jowar* and maize are sown through a *nai* or seed-drill attached to a plough. The next process is weeding (*nindai* or *dorni*). This is done when the crop is quite small by means of a *khurpa*, and later on when the plant is about two feet high with a *dora* or small plough, which is passed down between the rows of standing plants so as to remove foreign growths and loosen the soil at the roots. The plants are then thinned out (*galni*) if necessary. The final field process is reaping (*katni*).

Different crops are gathered in different ways. *Jowar* is cut by men standing, only the upper part of the plant being taken. Wheat and most other crops are cut close to the ground by persons stooping. Gram is pulled up by roots. The crops are then taken to the threshing floor (*khala*) where they are either trodden out under the feet of oxen or threshed with a flail (*mogri*). The former process called *dawan* is employed in the case of most crops, the latter process being applied only in the case of *tuar* and a few other grains. The grain is then winnowed and collected.

Wheat commands the agricultural scene of the District. Wheat was sown in 5,30,204 acres during the year 1961-62, while its area was only 2,04,003 acres in 1951-52. This increase within a decade, even after taking into account the integration of Sironj, is considerable. It marks a reversal of the declining trend which had earlier set in 'forties' and 'fifties'. Wheat and gram were the dominant crops of Bhilsa District. In spite of the dependence on one crop, namely, wheat, the District showed a diminution of this crop from the average of 5,54,339 acres for the five years from 1934-35 to 1938-39 to only 2,08,269 acres in 1943-44. Later figures show steady increase in the area which had risen to 5,50,712 acres in 1964-65. The area devoted to cultivation of wheat was 1,94,656 hectares in 1967-68 and increased to 235.5 thousand ha in 1972-73. In some parts of the District, it is raised in submerged tanks. The outturn of wheat has similarly shown enormous increase from 20.5 thousand tons in 1951-52 to 65.5 thousand tons in 1956-57 and 159.7 thousand tons in 1961-62. The year 1967-68 gave an outturn of 155.7 thousand metric tons and 1972-73 an outturn of 166.4 thousand metric tons. 1966-67 was not a good year when outturns were low, including that of wheat. In 1971-72, the current yield of wheat was 889 kg. per hectare as against the standard of 560 kg.

Next in importance to wheat is gram with 1,76,519 acres in 1956-57 and almost the same level in 1964. In 1967-68, area occupied by gram was 83,552 hectares but short by 16,805 ha. in comparison to the previous year. Thus gram was responsible for 17 per cent of the cropped area in 1967-68. Gram, however, occupied 94.9 thousand ha. in 1972-73. Gram is also the most important pulse crop accounting for 75 per cent of the total area under pulses in 1971-72. The other pulses crop (in 1971-72) are *tuar* (4.7 thousand ha), *moong-moth* (6.9 thousand ha) *teora* (8.0 thousand ha.), lentil (9.3 thousand ha). Gram is produced in a quantity far in excess of local consumption. The large quantities exported even outside State make it almost a substitute for a cash crop in the District. Of the varieties common in cultivation *Gulabi Chana* has the largest demand for exports and hence the most lucrative and favoured one. Gram gave an outturn of 43.3 thousand metric tons in 1967-68 which more than doubled to 79.5 thousand metric tons in 1972-73. The yield was 612 kg. per ha as against 421 kg. of the previous year.

Tuar and *moong* are frequently grown in a mixture with *jowar*. *Teora* and *masur* are also grown as *kharif* crops much under the same conditions as gram.

Gram is followed by *jowar*, which is the third important crop of the district. It is also the most important *kharif* crop. It occupied 82,840 ha in 1967-68, which worked out to 17 per cent of the cropped area of the District. The popularity of *jowar* has grown enormously which is clearly borne out from the statistics of *jowar* area in 1972-73. The area had gradually declined to 4.91 thousand ha. About the previous decreasing area trend in *jowar*, Dr. Mukerjee in his Report says, "Even in the Kharif crop, *jowar* which is the most important in Bhilsa shows a diminution from 1,40,625 acres in 1929-30 to 1,15,761 acres in 1943-44..... The main cause of diminution of area under *jowar* in Bhilsa is high rainfall accompanied by the bad distribution of rain. Neither rice nor maize is grown to any appreciable extent."¹ But the picture is different now. From 35.7 thousand metric tons in 1966-67 to 61.6 thousand metric tons in 1967-68, *jowar*, recorded a bumper outturn. However there was falling off in production when it amounted to 39.3 thousand metric tons in 1972-73. The yield in the year 1971-72 was 398 kg. per ha though it was 536 kg. in the previous year.

Maize is a cereal of lesser importance. Amongst the *kharif* crops of the District, maize comes second only to *jowar* occupying 7,812 ha (or 1.6 per cent of the crop area of the District) in 1967-68 and eight thousand Maize (*Zea Maya*) ha in 1972-73. With 16,426 acres in 1956-57 and 16,851 acres in 1964-65, the area was almost constant. Production of maize was 8.9 thousand metric tons in 1967-68, and 9.9 thousand metric

1. *ibid.* p. 43.

tons in 1972-73. The current yield was 974 kg. per ha in 1971-72.

Paddy has little relevance to Vidisha District. Its area appears to be in continuous decline, being no more than 1.7 thousand ha in 1972-73. About the desirability of the cultivation of these three *kharif* crops Rice (*Oryza sativa*) the old Report says, "Laboratory experiments in rice, maize and jowar may give us the suitable varieties that may be tried with a view to the improvement of *kharif* area and yields. Their cultivation is important from another point of view. It is jowar, rice and maize that supply the stalks used as cattle fodder, the lack of which has led to the marked deterioration of cattle in that district."¹

Of late, taste and liking for fruits and vegetables have developed to some extent as may be evident from the increase in their area from Fruits and Vegetables 1,452 acres in 1956-57 to 2,886 acres in 1964-65. It was, however, 1,043 ha in 1971-72, out of which vegetables occupied 500 ha and fruits 543 ha. The most important fruit crop of the District is mango with 329 ha. The other important fruit is guava with 98 ha. Vegetable Development Scheme was initiated in the year 1967-68. New areas have been brought under vegetable. Besides potato (50 ha.), sweet potato (20 ha) onions (100 ha) and common country vegetables are grown.

Condiments and spices slowly increased in area both before and after 1955-56 when Sironj was included in the District. From 737 acres in 1950-51 they increased to 818 acres in 1954-55 and then to 1,217 acres in 1955-56 from where, they again rose slowly and erratically to 1,458 acres in 1960-61. Latest figures show that the increase in the area has continued and in 1964-65 it covered 1,725 acres. In 1971-72 the area under these crops was 535 ha. Chillies covered the largest area with 345 ha followed by coriander (*dhania*) (115 ha), garlic (*lahsun*) (42 ha) and ginger (*adrak*) (18 ha).

Area under oilseeds has been uncertain and variable throughout. It reached the level of 80,347 acres in 1964-65, the highest since the year 1950-51.

In 1967-68, oilseeds crops accounted for 37,134 ha covering Oil Seeds 7.7 per cent of the total cropped area of the District. The year 1971-72 reported 34.3 thousand ha under oilseeds. Linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) the chief oilseed crop accounted for 42 per cent of the oilseed crop area in 1967-68. The area covered by linseed shows no definite trend. In 1967-68 linseed covered 15,702 ha, the quinquennial average being 14,168 ha. Almost the entire crop is raised by drilling method. In 1972-73 the area had increased to 20.3 thousand ha.

1. *ibid.*

Sesamum or *til*, grown on fairly light soils in the *kharif* season, is an annual herbaceous plant. Amongst oilseeds it is the second important crop.

Sesamum Its cultivation is assuming importance as will be clear from the fact that though in 1967-68 it commanded 9,994 ha, the (*Sesamum Indicum*) quinquennial average was 5,414 ha. In 1972-73 the area had shrunk to 1.2 thousand ha. Other oilseed crop that commanded some sizeable area was rape and mustard (4.8 thousand ha) in 1972-73.

Fibres are not important in the agricultural economy of Vidisha. In 1967-68 the area under fibres was 789 ha. Of this the largest area, 448 ha. was occupied by *ambadi* (mesta). Cotton occupied the least area with 33 ha.

Among the drugs and narcotics the only one produced on any significant scale was tobacco with 17 ha in 1967-68 which apparently is much lower than it normally used to be. In 1951-52 it covered 192 acres, while further back in time in 1906-07¹, when it was eminently conspicuous in the trade of the District it covered an area of 1,326 acres in the then District of Bhilsa. In fact Bhilsa tobacco was famous all over the country. Edward Thornton writing in the middle of the 19th century considered the Bhilsa tobacco produced in the vicinity of the town finest in India.²

Progress of Scientific Agriculture

Vidisha District, as already noted has comparatively a greater number of large-size holdings. It, therefore, offers better scope for the adoption of mechanized means of agriculture. True to this fact, Vidisha has many more tractors on its fields than most of the districts of Madhya Pradesh. Besides, some simple machine tools of the farm are manufactured locally. Improved agricultural implements have thus become more and more popular through the years, particularly after the planning era. Tractors, the most important means of large scale mechanization is also the positive indicator of the inevitable process of agricultural transformation that has set in. They have multiplied considerably in numbers during the inter-census decades (1951-61) roughly covering the two Five Year Plans. Thus, from a meagre total of 4 tractors in 1950-51 their number rose to 31 in 1956 and to 142 in 1961, out of which, as many as 121 were owned by the private sector. In the year 1967-68 the number of tractors was recorded as 143. In 1971-72 the number had swelled to 404. The fact of

1. Gwalior State Administration Report, 1906-07, App. 6.

2. Gazetteer of India, Vol. I, p. 400.

a large share of private ownership shows the progressive outlook of the cultivators as also the comparative affluence and scope for mechanization in agriculture.

Although the popularity of modern agricultural implements is increasing the use of older types of implements traditionally associated with the Indian agricultural practice is also very much in vogue. In fact, the age-old *hal* and *bakhar* still play the dominant role on the fields. *Hal* or country plough has an iron share in spike form penetrating about 6 inches, the body being made of wood. It is driven by a pair of yoked oxen. The *bakhar* or paring plough has a horizontal blade which is dragged across the ground and is generally used in preparing the land for sowing.

The other old types of implements used by the farmers are *dora*, an implement used for weeding; *nai* consisting of a single bamboo tube fixed behind the spike of the plough through which the seed is dropped; *duffan* or a *nai* with two tubes; *gaintee*, *phaora* or spade, *khurpi* or hoe, *duranta* or sickle, used for weeding and harrowing purposes.

The older implements, in many instances are now being supplemented with new implements, such as, chaff-cutters, cane-crushers (power and bullock-driven), Gwalior ploughs, improved *duffan* and *tiffan*, winnowers (Vidisha and Hoshangabad made), olpad threshers, Ludhiana threshers (tractor-drawn), and threshing-cum-winnowing machines. The last of them are made locally and drawn by tractors, which though sufficiently familiar to the farmer are still a rarity, and have yet to make their impact felt.

Thus with the increasing number of tractors in the District as detailed before in addition to the wide range of improved and innovated agricultural implements listed above, large scale mechanisation of the entire agricultural sector of the District is bound to get strong boost upwards and render the great potential of the land open to its full. Achievement in the use of improved implements during the five years (1963-68) is as follows: ploughs 1,688; chaff-cutters 201; winnowers 513; threshers 25; *touchi-gurma* 97; hoes 64; cultivators 58; seed drills 221; canecrushers 95; *duffans* 769; *tiffans* 250 and tractors 9.

A Table showing agricultural implements and machinery in use in the District is appended.

Although the farmer is generally aware of the importance of the quality of seeds in raising a crop, conservative ideas and lack of scientific knowledge have always come in the way of introduction of new varieties of seeds and their widespread adoption. Seed improvement work was done in the past also but whatever good results achieved were confined more to

the experimental field than percolate down to the farmers field. Recurring food shortages involving both national prestige and foreign exchange spurred concerted action in this direction. Experimentation with and popularisation of improved strains of seed is mostly a post-Independence phenomenon. Department is distributing such seeds in respect of a number of crops, i. e., wheat, gram, paddy, *jowar*, maize, *moong*, etc., for raising the productivity of agriculture. It is estimated that 2,40,000 acres of *rabi* and 80,000 acres of *kharif* have been brought under improved seed in this District by 1967-68. Hybrid maize and hybrid *jowar* introduced in the year 1964-65, have great possibilities in the irrigated areas of the District. The following varieties have been recommended on the basis of their good characters and high yielding quality.

Table No. IV-3

Improved Seeds

Seed and Crop	Year of Introduction	Nature and Quality
Wheat		
C. 591	1950-51	Old variety, high yielding, good market value, partially rust-resistant.
Hy. 65	1958-59	Drought resistant with high yield
C. 281	1959-60	High Yielding, high market value
Mexican varieties		
Larma & Sonora-64	1966-67	Rust-resistant, high Yielding variety
Sonalika R.R.-21 S-227	1967-68	
Gram		
Ujjain-24	1959-60	High market value and yield
Pea		
T-19	1957-58	Table variety
Early December	1959-60	High market value
Jowar		
Ujjain-6	1955-56	High yielding
V-60-1	1960-61	High yielding
Moong		
Ujjain-16	1959-60	Late variety, high yielding
Kopergaon	1960-61	Early crop, good market value
Paddy		
Laloo	1961-62	Early variety
Safedan	1961-62	Medium variety
Maize		
Ganga		
Ranjeet	1963-64	High yielding, high market value
Deccan	—	—

The above Table makes it clear that the use of improved varieties of seeds is comparatively a new phenomenon, the earliest new variety that introduced the planning era in 1950-51 was that of wheat C-II/591 having manifold assets of high yield, high market value and resistance to rust. It has to its credit the introduction of largest number of varieties, including the celebrated Mexican varieties of Larma and Sonora-64. *Jowar* also got an early start with Ujjain-6 variety introduced in 1955-56 while paddy and maize were the later additions in regard to new seed varieties. A high-yielding variety programme was initiated during 1968-69. Hybrid maize has been well received by the cultivators. In areas endowed with irrigation facilities, hybrid *jowar* may also establish itself. Plan-wise figures of distribution of improved seeds are given in the Table below .—

Table No. IV-4
Distribution of Improved Seeds

Crop	I Plan	II Plan	III Plan	(In Quintals)	
				1966-67	1967-68
Wheat	6,258	8,490	47,575	6,351	21,747
Gram	619	629	3,319	2,072	8,160
Jowar	223	479	991	570	817
Paddy	81	787	142	125	96
Groundnut	—	131	342	175	455
Maize	—	61	—	—	—
Linseed	—	—	96	147	—
Peas	—	—	27	4	H

Fertilizers are still more a modern and scientific way of increasing the fertility of the soil and extracting full potential from it. Due to insufficient rainfall for the last so many years, the fertilizer distribution and consumption is not up to the mark. Secondly, there is very little area under irrigation in relation to which the fertilizer programme is prepared. Latest Plan-wise figures of use of fertilizers are being given below .—

Table No. IV-5
Distribution of Fertilizers

Item	Ist Plan	II Plan	III Plan	(In tons)	
				1966-67	1967-68
Nitrogenous	50-0-0	875-37-8	775-8-79	163-4-40	99-4-40
Phosphatic	40-0-0	38-34-8	441-3-06	113-8-80	83-8-72
Potassic	—	—	—	0-9-50	1-2-50

Among the nitrogenous fertilizers ammonium sulphate has been distributed in the largest quantity followed by urea, C. A. N., and nitrophosphate while super-phosphate is the phosphatic fertilizer distributed. Use of potassic fertilizers started later and they are distributed in small quantities. Use of fertilizers is spreading rapidly as can well be seen from Table IV-5. Paucity of irrigation facilities has been a great obstacle in the widespread use of fertilizer. Rainfall conditions also determine their use.

As for manures the commonest forms are cow-dung and village sweepings. Owing to the efforts of the Community Development Programme, the cultivators have gradually adopted the practice of systematic pits, where the manure is allowed to rot before being spread into the fields. Green manuring with *san*, *dhaincha* and *moong* have also become popular. It may be of interest to note that green manuring was in vogue in the opening years of this century as well, though this practice was very often applied to poppy fields. To come back to cow-dung, it is used for manure during the rainy period roughly from 15th June to 15th September and for fuel purposes from 15th September to 15th June, i. e., during open season. It is estimated that 50 per cent of cowdung is used as fuel due to fuel scarcity in this District which is scantily forested. The rest is used for making compost. Manure is also obtained by seating of goats and sheep in the field in some areas of the District, particularly in Lateri tahsil. Apart from urban and rural composts, night-soil is also used as manure. Figures of achievement in the distribution of compost and green manuring seeds during (1963-68) are given below.

Table No. IV-6
Distribution of Organic Manures

Name of Manure	Unit	Quantity
Urban compost		
Compost prepared	Tons	34,154
Compost distributed	..	40,874
Night-soil manure		
Manure prepared	..	708
Manure distributed	..	433
Rural compost		
Compost pits dug	Nos.	16,634
Pits repaired	..	24,291
Compost prepared	Tons	1,89,274
Compost utilized	..	1,86,886
Distribution of green manuring		
Seeds		
Sann	Qtls.	2,797
Dhaincha	..	163
Urad and moong	..	2,051

Other traditional modes of increasing the fertility of the soil include rotation of crops, leaving land fallow and mixed-cropping. Rotation is not quite systematically practised but the cultivators are generally aware of the exhausting nature of some and recuperating effect of other crops. Suitable rotation schedule recommended by the Department is as follows : (i) wheat after gram, (ii) paddy after peas, (iii) *jowar* after wheat and gram, and (iv) maize after lentil and peas. Mixed cropping consists of (i) wheat and gram, (ii) wheat, gram and linseed, (iii) *jowar*, *moong* and *tur*, and (iv) *jowar* and *urad*. The practice of fallowing is no longer resorted to the same extent as before, probably due to improved agricultural practices, availability of fertilizers, more irrigation facilities and greater pressure on land.

Agricultural Diseases and Pests

Among the seed-borne diseases of wheat and *jowar*, the main crops of the District, the commonest is rust or blight called *gerua*. It was stated in the Census Report, 1951 for Madhya Bharat that rust has often suddenly destroyed standing crops, and that entomological and pathological research institutions are making vigorous efforts to eradicate this menace, which is responsible for low yields also. A successful method to control this is pre-sowing seed dressing with mercurial compounds. Frosts also cause damage some time.

Among the pests which do the most damage to grain, vegetables and other garden crops alike, are locusts. Control of rat in fields and godowns is an important item of plant protection work. Damage to grains and cereals in storage by beetles and moths is also observed but can easily be removed by safe storage methods taken up on the government level. Weeds also come in the way of raising successful crops but due to the system of growing mixed crops, the use of selective weed killers is very much restricted in such areas. Among the pernicious weeds infesting the District crops, the most injurious is, of course the *kans*, followed by *govi*, *motha*, *gokhru*, *nathni*, *katai*, *baridudin*, *hirankur*, *bathua*, *nohia*, *agiya* and *hardila*. The menace of *kans* alongwith other weeds is very much real in this District as allowing the land to remain uncultivated quickly results in its being overgrown with *kans* and other weeds, turning it into culturable waste. Work done for the eradication of *kans* has already been referred to.

All the diseases and pests have been covered under the various works taken up by the State under the Plant Protection Scheme. According to the figures, for the five year period (1963-68) the achievements of Vidisha District under the Plant Protection Scheme included seed treatment amounting to 6,269 quintals likely to cover an area of 227,506 acres. Besides 2,396 quintals of pesticides were sold.

It has been estimated that the area affected by diseases and pests during the period 1963-68 was 1,83,392 acres out of which 42,972 acres of area was effectively controlled. Work for the eradication of rats was also taken up on a large scale and out of 85,454 acres of affected area during the said period, 71,224 acres were successfully controlled for which purpose 8.49 quintals of pesticides were utilised.

Activities of the State Government are directed at securing the use of scientific methods of cultivation suited to the local conditions. These schemes for the development of agriculture are implemented through State Assistance Blocks. They include distribution of fertilizers, improved seeds, improved implements and provision of technical advice to the cultivators in regard to improved agricultural practices. As a result, the production level of crops has increased considerably. Specific area covered under the improved agricultural practices during the last five years from 1963-64 to 1967-68 amounted to a total of 11,19,957 acres. Of these 5,32,233 acres were covered by line sowing, 280,827 acres by the system of crop rotation and 2,57,719 acres by mixed cropping with legumes. The other improved methods included contour cultivation on 26,601 acres and strip-cropping on 22,577 acres during the same period. Apart from this, development of vegetables, setting up of small demonstration farms on cultivators' fields, development of horticulture, etc., comprise several other activities of the Department, already referred to. Plan-wise figures of such activities of the Department as have not been included elsewhere in the Chapter are being given below.—

Table No. IV-7

Activities of Agriculture Department

Items	I Plan	II Plan	III Plan	1966-67	1967-68
Demonstration plots (Nos.)	471	—	378	74	443
Demonstration farms on cultivators' fields (Nos.)	—	804	378	74	443
Development of oilseeds (Acres)			1,992	5,312	1,523
Development of horticulture (Acres)			220	45	35
Development of vegetables (Acres)				64	50
Popularisation of subsidiary food crops (Acres)			123	143	248
Coordinated scheme of fertilizer trials on cultivators' fields (Nos)			378	74	442

There is one agricultural farm at Vidisha, which is devoted both to agricultural research and multiplication of seeds. Established in the year 1943 it covers 140 acres. It is situated towards the south of Vidisha city on Vidisha-Sanchi road. The farm has a good layout. Out of the total area, nearly 112 acres are cultivated.

The farm is almost plain with a very gradual slope from south to north. Eighty per cent of the crops grown are *rabi* consisting mainly of wheat, gram, linseed, peas, etc., the remaining 20 per cent are *kharif*, being *jowar* and pulses like *moong*, *urad*, *tur*, etc. The soils of the farm belong to the typical medium to deep black soils of Malwa plateau. The soils are quite homogeneous. They are of deep dark colour becoming deeper with depth. The texture is primarily clay throughout the depth of six feet excepting in a few cases where it is silty clay. The clay content is invariably above 40 per cent and ranges in between 41-55 per cent. The silt content varies from 14 to 29 per cent while sand varies from 10 to 25 per cent. The soils are slightly calcareous and are devoid of any well-defined calcareous zone. The carbonates vary from 1 to 6 per cent only. Soils have a good moisture retention capacity. However, being quite heavy the soils are workable with difficulty. They get quite sticky with excessive moisture and very hard when dry. Optimum moisture condition is very necessary for their easy handling and working. Soils are quite stable and are not easily dispersed and may be less susceptible to erosion. The PH is near neutral and varies from 7.0 to 7.9 and is favourable for the growth of most of the crops. The total soluble salts percentage varies from 0.03 to 0.17 only and is fairly below the harmful limit. Normal values of pH and salt content suggest that the soils are quite good and may not develop any salinity and alkalinity. Further the soils seem to be fairly permeable having good drainage.

The total nitrogen varies from 0.003 to 0.006 per cent indicating that the soils are poor in nitrogen content. The organic carbon varies from 0.21 to 0.34 and is very low. The available P_2O_5 is low to medium and varies from 15 to 40 lbs/acre. Hence the soils are quite poor in fertility status.

The soils are uniform throughout the farm, hence from the available information the soils could be put in one class only "dark grey, clay without calcareous layer."

The other farm is a seed multiplication and demonstration farm and is situated at Kurwai. It was set up in the year 1959-60 and covers 100 acres.

The Government started the organisation of agricultural co-operatives on a well-planned integrated basis since 1961-62, in the beginning of Third Plan, with the establishment of joint farming societies in selected pilot project areas in the State. Vidisha District Co-operative Farming was one of the 20 districts in the State covered by such projects till 1963-64. Each pilot project area was envisaged to have 13 or 14 joint agricultural institutions working on land pooled by the members as well as given by the State. Vidisha District had 8 such joint agricultural institutions covered by the pilot project area. Apart from farming, these joint agricultural societies undertake other related services like poultry farming, dairy farming, etc., wherever possible. The Third Plan included a scheme for the opening of agricultural co-operative societies outside the pilot project areas also. Many such co-operatives are working all over the District. By the end of the First Plan there were six co-operative farming societies. Their number increased to 8 by the end of Second Plan and to 19 by the close of the Third Plan. The year 1966-67 saw the addition of one more Society. Better farming and service co-operative societies appeared during the Second Plan. By the end of the Second Plan the number of these societies was 16 and 96, respectively. By the close of the Third Plan, while the number of better farming societies remained unchanged that of service co-operatives almost trebled, being 282. The year 1966-67 witnessed a sharp decline when their number stood at 1 and 160 only, respectively.

Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

The total livestock in the District according to 1961 Census came to 6,35,026. Of these there were 4,86,468 cattle and 89,530 buffaloes. Goats and sheep constituted next numerically important category, being 38,614 and 12,873, respectively in 1961. Figures for 1967-68 show a decline in the number of total livestock (being 5,77,725) as well as of cattle (4,15,559). On the contrary, buffaloes, sheep and goats registered an increase. The most important local breed is the Malwi. These cattle are of medium size, generally of a grey or silver grey colour and very strong and active. It is equally adapted for plough, cart or well-work. A pure Malwi bullock is very shapely, the body being wide and deep, but not long, the limbs well-set and the feet hard and round. The cows are poor milkers.

Fodder crops

Area under fodder crops has increased considerably during the last few years. It was 4,574 acres during the quinquennium 1956-57 to 1960-61 and rose steeply to 44,168 acres in 1964-65. It was recorded as 44,957 ha in 1967-68. Apart from this, ample grazing is available on unculturable and fallow lands and on forests open for grazing. Demonstration of silo-pits is

undertaken to help the farmers conserve and thus increase the existing supplies of green fodder. The number of such demonstrations was 14 during the Second Plan and 61 during the Third Plan. Sixty-seven demonstrations were organised during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68.

Milk Supply

Comparatively big towns of the District possess a number of small cattle owners who are the chief source of supplying milk to the local population and mostly to the urban sections. They run their business privately on a small scale and without any attempt at organised or scientific dairy farming. There is no scheme of pasteurisation of milk or of supply of milk or milk products on a large scale and organised basis. Cattle are reared locally by all the cultivators and many other sections of the population on individual basis both in towns and villages alike.

Vidisha has the benefit of a *goshala*, an exclusively cow rearing farm. This *goshala*, namely, Shri Gandhi Goshala, located at the headquarters of Vidisha District came into being in 1956 at the instance of the then Madhya Bharat Government. Evidently formed with the main object of enhancing the milk supply of the town by making available to the people of Vidisha additional quantity of cheap and pure cow's milk it was also the aim of the Government to improve the milk yield of the local Malwi breed of cows by crossing them with Hariyana bulls. But the latter part of the scheme, however, could not be fulfilled due to non-availability of necessary finances. For improving the condition of the *goshala* the State Government has given the 83.5 acre Sewage Farm of Vidisha, to the *goshala* on 25 years' lease. It has also received a loan of Rs. 12,000 from the Central Council of Gosamvardhan, New Delhi in the year 1968-69 with which it intends to set up an irrigation pump near the farm.

Sheep and Goat Breeding

Goat and sheep are bred in all villages of the District generally by the poorer section of the population. Number of goats has increased sharply from 30,057 in 1956 to 38,614 in 1961 and to 48,808 in 1967-68. The case is different with sheep whose number was recorded as 15,085 in 1956; 12,873 in 1961 and 13,733 in 1967-68. The sheep and goats graze during the day and are folded at night on the fields, so that they may be fertilized by their droppings. Breeds are of a non-descript type and also inferior whether as mutton or as wool-producer.

Goats are reared privately by individual households for milk and also meat while sheep, besides these two commodities, also yield wool. Sheep breeding is spread all over the District but it is only in Kurwai tahsil that it

is followed mainly as an occupation by the 13 shepherd families inhabiting the tahsil and rearing herds of 1,619 sheep. They mainly depend upon the moderate wool yield of the local sheep, weaving blankets out of it for their livelihood.¹

Poultry Farming

Poultry numbered 23,667 in 1961 with 23,564 fowls among them. This showed an increase of 33 per cent over the number of 1956. In 1968, the number further increased to 26,730, fowls being 26,654.

Poultry breeding in the District has hitherto been a purely individual affair and households mostly of some particular sections of the society have been rearing fowls as hereditary profession. They are reared for domestic and local consumption of meat and eggs. No systematic, not to mention the scientific, way of poultry breeding is followed and only an occasional individual tries to improve upon his own small unit. Exotic breeds are also generally lacking. However, the Government is very much alive to the unsatisfactory state of poultry-farming in the District. As a first step in the direction of poultry improvement Government established a District Poultry Unit during the Third Plan period.

Fisheries

Development of fisheries on a planned scientific basis with the help of Government started only after Independence when Vidisha formed part of the former Madhya Bharat. During the First Plan fisheries development in the then Bhilsa District was placed under the Fisheries Sub-Division of Guna district. A Survey of fishery resources was also conducted.

In rivers of the District fishes mostly of carp and a few other varieties are found in adequate quantity. Tanks being seasonal, dry up in the summer and are not suitable for fish rearing. Only one tank at Gyaraspur is being used for fisheries development. Three more tanks are to be covered under the development programme. Seedlings of *rohu*, *mahaseer* and *narayan* varieties have been provided. Five varieties, introduced in the year 1955-56, have been found suitable for development in the District. They are, (i) *Catla catla* (ii) *Labeo rohita*, (iii) *Labeo calbasu*, (iv) *Cirrhina mrigal*, and (v) *Barbus stor*.

As for the equipment for catching fish, gill nets, cast nets, drag nets and *mahajal* are being generally used by fishermen of the District. *Phaslajal* of nylon yarn is the improved tackle for extraction of fish, and is being used upto the extent of 70 per cent for extraction from tanks.

1. Vidisha, *Audyogik Vikas Ki Sambhavnayen*, p. 13.

For the further development of fisheries there is a scheme to construct a fish farm at Vidisha which will cater to the needs of private parties, *gram panchayats*, etc., in regard to fish seed. The problem of proper storage of fish in the District is also to be solved, at present there being no storage facility. The fishermen sell their catches in the market daily and the local consumption being less, the need for the storage of surplus supplies is being felt. Table below shows the quantity of fish extracted during the past five years :—

Table No. IV-8

Fish Extracted

Years	(Qtls)	(kg)
1963-64	0	72
1964-65	14	4
1965-66	93	50
1966-67	144	51
1967-68	98	13

Development of fisheries will get further impetus with the appearance of cooperative movement in this field. In the year 1967-68 a Fishermen's Cooperative Society was organised and got registered. Assistance in the form of subsidy for the purchase of implements as well as loans has been given to the society. The society has been permitted to extract fish on royalty rates fixed by the Department while individual members are given licence for fishing in rivers.

Measures to improve Quality of Breeds

This District has also been covered under the State-wide plan of adopting measures to improve cattle breeds. As part of the plan, under a scheme initiated during the First Plan, bulls of superior breed have been made available for the purpose of upgrading the local breeds by cross-breeding. With the same end in view, four village centres were opened. These centres were located at Davar, Mundra, Rengri and Imelia where breeding bulls have been provided. One artificial insemination centre was opened at Vidisha during the First Plan. It contains a central semen collection, preservation and utilisation station within itself.

The Key Village Centre, as is evident, is the main place for breeding cows and buffaloes and providing other measures to improve the quality of breeds. Each Centre is provided with one breeding bull. They remained only six till as late as 1966-67. But there was a steep rise in the very next

year when the number rose to as many as 25 Centres in the year 1967-68 with as many breeding bulls. The sudden increase was made possible under the Intensive Cattle Development Project started that year. Intensification of breeding programme is also carried on at the seven cattle breeding units.

Holding of cattle shows and cattle fairs is also a measure of propagation of good breeds. Cattle shows are organised by the Department to educate public opinion in favour of good breeds. Important cattle fairs are held at Vidisha (Ramlila mela), Lateri, Basoda and Sironj. While cattle show is a recent innovation cattle fairs have been held regularly since long.

Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals

The commonest diseases are rinderpest (*mata*) and haemorrhagic septicæmia. Another common disease is foot and mouth disease called locally as *khasith* or *roga*. A variety of indigenous remedies are used and the Gazetteer makes mention of some other diseases alongwith the remedies generally applied in these words: "Others are *chakkarpani* in which the animal is seized with fits and *leda*, in which swellings appear on the neck. In all cases firing is a favourable remedy. Herbs are also administered and, in serious cases, the astrologer or priest is called in to exorcise the evil-influence at work."¹ Of these the last, the system of calling the local priest, has with the advance of scientific knowledge gone into disuse.

Regarding veterinary institutions there were in all five veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the District before the Plan period. They were located at Bhilsa, Basoda, Kurwai, Shamsabad and Bhonrasa. But with the beginning of the Five Year Plans many advanced measures have been taken to combat animal diseases, and improve the quality of their breeds. The A.I. Centre and 25 K. V. Centres have already been alluded to. More of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries have been established which number 5 and 20, respectively. These institutions have worked vigorously in the direction of prevention and removal of the animal diseases. They have been conducting inoculations against two major diseases, i. e., rinderpest and haemorrhagic septicæmia. Inoculations against former increased from 22 in 1961-62 to 71,332 in 1967-68 while in the case of the latter they rose from 907 to 10,418 during the same period. The number of animals who were given treatment increased from 25,657 in 1961-62 to 42,355 in 1967-68. Castrations were undertaken in 3,023 cases in 1961-62. For proper investigations of animal diseases samples are sent to Disease Investigation Officer, Bhopal, for analysis.

1. Gwalior State Gazetteer, p. 65.

Forestry

Vidisha being mainly an agricultural tract situated on the brink of the Malwa Plateau does not have very rich forest growth. Most of the forest area of 80,677 hectares lies in Sironj Sub-division and on the eastern mountainous ranges where there are a few patches of dense forest. There are patches and short belts of well-drained sands on the bank of the nullahs which bear valuable forest crop. On slopes the soil is well-drained and generally light loam encouraging growth of good teak and its auxiliary species.

Forest Produce

Major part of the forests, about 60 per cent, produce timber and fuel wood, the principal forest produce of the District. Other produce of the local forests include bamboo, gum, *tendu* leaves, lac, honey, wax, catechu (*katha*), grass and bones, etc. *Tendu* leaves are consumed in the cottage industry of *bidi*-making. Grass is an important item of forest produce. A special type of grass called *gondra*, is found in Kurwai tahsil in large quantity and is used for weaving mats. Similarly leaves of date palm also available in Kurwai tahsil are used for making mats. Lac is used for making bangles mostly in Basoda tahsil but its production is likely to extend to Kurwai tahsil also. An estimate of the value of the forest produce of the District for an average year in the sixties is given below.—

Table No. IV-9

Estimated Yearly Forest Produce

Items	Value (In Rs.)
Timber logs	4,88,643
Fuel wood	14,658
Bamboos	839
Gums	1,336
<i>Tendu</i> leaves	20,050
Catechu (<i>katha</i>)	22,913
Honey and wax	994
Bones and horns	60
Other produce	400

A programme of plantation of trees has been in existence right from the First Plan when 255 acres of land was covered. A nursery of the Forest Department was also opened at a cost of Rs. 29,759. Plantation programme covered 195 acres of land during the Second Plan.

State Assistance to Agriculture

Assistance from the Government to the cultivators of the District in the pursuit of agriculture has been given from the days of former Gwalior State, but its scope and extent have greatly enlarged with the advent of planning era in the post-Independence period. Range of the purpose of loans as well as the admissible amount have increased. Provision also existed for special help to the poor cultivators in the times of scarcity and famine. This is mentioned in Darbar Records of the erstwhile State. Even the small States, viz., Mohammadgarh, now forming part of Vidisha District provided seed grains for *rabi* sowing through *taccavi* loans. These loans are now provided on a more integrated and continuing basis in line with other areas of the country under the former British Acts, Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, and Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884 and under the Grow More Food Scheme of the Government. Loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act 1883, are related to the work of improvement on the land, such as, bunding, construction of wells, etc., while under the Agriculturist's Loans Act, 1884, they are given for other purposes related to agricultural operations, such as, purchase of bullocks, fertilizers, seed, etc. Grow More Food loans are also given under the provision, of the above two enactments.

Figures of *taccavi* loans for the decade 1951-61 show that the amount of such loans increased to Rs. 200,628 in 1960-61 from Rs. 98,530 in 1951-52. The largest amount of *taccavi* distributed during the decade was in the year 1959-60 when the amount was a little more than three lakhs. Variety of items for which the facility is now being given includes purchase of tractors, insecticides, pesticides, horticulture development, plant protection, etc.

Famine

Vidisha District is endowed with the gift of nature in the shape of rich soil and consequent bountiful agriculture. Thus famine or even scarcity conditions for that matter have been somewhat stranger to this District. This is amply borne out by the following extract, "In malwa scarcity is of rare occurrence and famine almost unknown.¹" Even so, just for an exception there has been one instance of a severe famine occurring in the Malwa region although Bhilsa was one of its least affected areas. The State Gazetteer records it this way, "Malwa hitherto immune, suffered from a famine of great severity in 1899-00. The rainfall in the Malwa district amounted to about 9 inches instead of over 30.... The inhabitants of this tract were unaccustomed to such visitations and quite unable to cope with them.....Malwa has not yet recovered from the famine of

1. Gwalior State Gazetteer . p. 86.

1899-1900 and the numerous empty houses to be seen in every village and referred to laconically as the results of Chappan ka sal (V. S. 1956) as well as a seriously diminished supply of agricultural labour, show clearly how serious were its effects."¹

As can well be imagined, in the present conditions of widespread communications and transport facilities any possibility of famine or even scarcity has been almost completely removed.

Floods have not posed a major threat to the District though the rivers and nullahs carry large volumes of water during the rainy season. However, recently two flood protection schemes have been started in the District. They are Nagwas flood protection scheme in Kurwai tahsil and Rawan flood protection scheme in Basoda tahsil envisaging construction of protection embankments.



1. *ibid.* pp. 87-88.

CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES

Population Dependent on Industries

The number of workers dependent for their livelihood on industries¹ was 22,670 in the year 1961. In other words, about 10 per cent of the total workers in the District were dependent on industries. Out of the 22,670 "workers" dependent on industries as many as 11,370 were working in household industry, and 8,237 "workers" were engaged in industrial activities allied to agriculture like live-stock, forestry, hunting, plantation, etc. The number of those working in mining and quarrying was negligible. Only 3,063 "workers" were classified as working in manufacturing other than household industry which mainly consisted of craftsmen and some other technical persons. Tahsilwise figures in all the three categories of "workers" in Vidisha District, as per 1961 Census are given below :

*Table No. V-1
Industrial Workers, 1961*

Tahsil	Persons engaged in			Total
	Mining, quarrying fishing, etc. (class III)	Household industry (Class IV)	Manufacturing other than household industry (class V)	
Vidisha	2,360	3,812	1,072	7,244
Basoda	2,703	3,446	869	7,018
Kurwai	1,042	963	196	2,201
Sironj	1,750	2,054	829	4,633
Lateri	382	1,095	97	1,574
Total	8,237	11,370	3,063	22,670

Out of 22,670 "workers" (16,658 rural and 6,012 urban) dependent on industries in the District, 7,244 (4,867 rural, 2,377 urban) were in Vidisha

1. According to occupational classification adopted for 1961 Census purposes, there are two classes, IV and V, i.e. "household industry" and manufacturing other than household industry", respectively, which can strictly be taken as falling under the group of industries. But class number III of 1961 Census classification, i.e. mining, quarrying, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities are taken as industrial activity in the larger context of class V of 1951 Census classification "production other than cultivation". Thus the three occupational classes III, IV and V of 1961 Census are taken as industrial activity.

tahsil and 7,018 (5,905 rural, 1,113 urban) workers were in Basoda tahsil. In the same way 4,623 workers (2,560 rural, 2,063 urban) were in Sironj tahsil and 2,201 workers (1,742 rural, 459 urban) were in Kurwai tahsil. In Lateri tahsil, all the workers being 1574 were dependent on industries in rural area.

According to Census 1971, the number of industrial workers was 9,551. They constitute about 0.04 per cent of the total number of workers. Of these 339 were enumerated in mining and quarrying, 5,442 in household industry and 3730 in industries other than household, i.e. manufacturing industries. It may be seen that there is a steep decline in the number of industrial workers during 1961-71. This can reasonably be assigned to the change in the definition of 'workers' in Census 1971.

Old Time Industries

All the traditional industries like handloom weaving, cloth dyeing and printing, carpentry, blacksmithy, leather tanning and shoe-making, lac-bangles making, *dari* and woollen rug making etc., are still functioning in the District. In the economic set-up of the District, where agriculture is predominant all these industries continue to exist, catering to the needs of the rural masses. It is stated that *jajam* or floor-cloths of Basoda, and the red sandstone *kundies* of Udaypura have a great local reputation¹.

Apart from this, building construction was also important in Vidisha. Regarding lime-stone work and sandstone, it is stated that "the buildings in Bhilsa, Gyaspur and many other places all testify to its extensive use from an early period".²

Sironj which is at present a tahsil of Vidisha District has been famous in the past for its industries and trade. In Akbar's time Sironj was at the peak of its prosperity and it was a prominent business centre on the way from Delhi to South³. Sironj was famous for the manufacture of excellent calicoes and for its colourful printing and dyeing industry, references to which are found in the celebrated *Ain-i-Akbari* and in the itinerary of the Frenchman Jean Baptiste Tavernier, who visited India in the 17th century.

In the 17th century the Surat-Agra Road *via* Sironj was also very famous because all the products of Northern India used to be sent through this road to Surat port. Tavernier, a French jewel merchant who travelled India, and Peter Mundi mentioned many business centres enroute this road...from

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 153.

2. *ibid.* p. 73.

3. G. S. Bhargava, *Sironj Ka Itihas*, p. 31.

Burhanpur, Ichhawar and Sehore this road reached Sironj, which was popular for its printed cloths in this period¹.

"Industrially Malwa occupied the first rank among Mughal *subahs* after Gujarat."² Abul Fazl wrote that "cloth of the finest texture was woven here"³. However, it is the reference in another book which conveys a fuller idea of the glorious past of the textile industry of Sironj. "There is made at Sironj, a description of *muslin*, which is so fine that when it is on the person you see all the skin as though it were uncovered. The merchants are not allowed to export it and the governor sends all of it for the great Mughal's seraglio and for the principal courtiers. This it is of which the Sultans and the wives of the great nobles make for themselves shirts and garments for the hot weather"⁴.

This region was famous for its coloured cloth too, which it produced in abundance.⁵ It was known as *chintz* and was exported to foreign countries also. These calicoes were made in many places, but those made and printed at Sironj were the most famous. It was said that the calicoes dyed in Sironj did not merely look lively, but their colour would appear all the more beautiful the more they were washed. This speciality was attributed to the water of the river, which passes by Sironj and specially when they were washed in its disturbed waters.⁶ The *chintz* made in Malwa was exported to Persia in large quantities, where it was used by the common people for their dresses, bed-covers and table-cloths. It was so popular there that manufacturers in Sironj made it to order to suit the taste and customers of the place. It was also exported to Turkey.⁷ These *chintz* were sold at 20 to 60 rupees the corgie or there about.⁸ At Sironj cloth of various colours ornamented with flowers were made. They served as bed-covers and were exported abroad. Tents too were a speciality of Sironj and were ordered for the Maratha armies.⁹

"Sironj in olden times was doubtless a considerable city, situated on the direct route between the Deccan and Agra, but it has decayed rapidly, and its

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1. Dr. Moti Chand, *Sarthavah*, p. 26.
 2. J.N. Sarkar, *History of Aurangzib*, v. p. 380.
 3. *Ain-i-Akbari*, Tr. by Jarret, Vol. II, p. 195.
 4. Tavernier, I, pp. 56-57.
 5. Raghubir Singh, *Malwa in Transition*, p. 6.
 6. Tavernier, I, p. 56; II, pp. 29-30.
 7. Tavernier, I, p. 56; II, p. 5.
 8. *ibid.* II, p. 5.
 9. Raghubir Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 333.

Sironj as a Dwindling Centre of Trade great empty bazars and the ruins of many fine houses alone testify to its former importance."¹ It is further mentioned, regarding its *muslins* and *chintzs* that, "This manufacture has unfortunately died out, and no recollection of its having once formed the staple trade of the place survives."² In this way cloth-dyeing and printing was the prominent industry of Sironj in olden time. *Rangrez* and *Chheepas* or dyers prepared their own colours for *rangai* (dyeing) from various forest flowers at sironj and in many parts of the town *pucca houz* (tanks) still exist. These were used for dyeing work.³

Apart from dyeing and printing of cloth, paper manufacturing industry was also important. The paper produced at Sironj was thick and was popular for its durability. Good quality paper in sufficient quantity was produced here. *Sanads* or documents written on this paper are in good condition after a period of centuries.⁴ At Sironj, Kagajipura, on the bank of the river, was a locality of workers engaged in paper manufacturing, and was named after this industry.⁵ Among other reasons of decay of these world famous industries of Sironj, most important was the import of colours and paper, made in big factories from foreign countries. These industries carried out their production till 1910. Even today, *daris* and shoes made at Sironj are popular for their durability and quality; and *sarotas* (betel-clippers) and shaving razors are also popular.⁶

Power

Power is the basis of industrialisation and mechanisation of agriculture. Electricity as an important and growing source of power supply is expected to contribute substantially towards these ends in the District. However, in the past the District was practically famished of electric power. It was as late as in 1930 that a beginning was made when the Madhya Bharat Electric Supply Co. started supply at Kurwai with an installed capacity of 27 k. w. by a single generating set only. Then in 1944, the Malwa Electric Supply Co. started a power station at Vidisha town with an installed capacity of 70 k. w. by two generating sets of 35 k. w. each. The real pace in the development of power supply was actually set in post-Independence period particularly with the Third Five Year Plan.

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, 1901, Vol. XXIII, p. 3.

2. *ibid.*

3. G.S. Bhargava, *Sironj Ka Itihas*, p. 25.

4. *ibid.*

5. *ibid.* p. 21.

6. *ibid.* pp. 25-27.

By the Third Plan period, there were four diesel power stations working in the District. They were located at Kurwai, Vidisha, Sironj and Basoda. Till the year 1967-68, all these diesel power stations were closed down. From 1968-69, fullfledged supply of Hydro-electricity from the Chambal had begun. By the same period, all the seven villages, besides the headquarter towns listed above, had been electrified. Of these, as many as five, namely, Natern, Sonpura, Rangai, Barkhedi and Gulabganj were in Vidisha tahsil. The other two, namely, Liaora and Rajod Mimbodia were in Kurwai and Basoda tahsils, respectively. Details of consumption of electricity in the District given below in the table testify to increasing utilization of power for industrial and irrigational purposes.

Table No. V-2

Segregation of Total Kilowatt Hours Sold (in millions)

Year	Industrial power	Public lighting	Irrigation
1968—69	136.80	24.80	19.46
1969—70	228.70	34.80	21.90
1970—71	228.70	34.80	31.15

Bhopal Electrical Division was formed in the year 1970, of which Vidisha is one of the constituent districts. Vidisha-Shamshabad 11 K. V. line was laid which catered to 100 pumps and 10 villages. Under the Electricity Board's Master Plan for this Division, the scheme of laying 132 K. V. line is also proposed to be constructed.

Electrification of Pumps

By the year 1970-71, the number of power pumps was 267 against 164 in March, 1969. It has further increased to 660 in the year 1974.

Rural Electrification Programme

During the Fourth Plan period, a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was sanctioned for Vidisha under the Rural Electrification Programme. For effective execution of the scheme, a separate Bhopal Division was formed, which covered Vidisha also besides Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts. Whereas there were 3 electrified villages in the year 1961, their number increased to 24 in 1968-69 and to 55 in the year 1970-71. As in March, 1972, 4 per cent of the villages were electrified. By the end of the year 1974, the number of electrified villages further increased to 74.

*Mining and Manufactures**Mining*

Fine sandstone is found in many places of Vidisha District. The buildings in Vidisha, Gyaraspur and many other places all testify to its extensive use from an early period. The stone used consists of both sandstone and limestone.¹

Stone

Vidisha District at present, except for the fine sand, has no mineral resources of any importance. All over the District are mines and quarries of minor minerals like clay, sandstone, *murram*, *chhuimitti*, etc. Figures regarding quarrying of stone, *murram*, sandstone, *bazari*, etc., are given below :-

Table No. V-3

Minor Minerals Extracted

Year	Stone	Murram	Sand	Bazari & others
1966—67	1,10,787	40,000	32,000	38,787
1967—68	85,296	22,000	19,000	44,296
1968—69	1,12,418	41,000	35,000	36,418

On an average about 417 workers were employed in stone quarries, 180 in *Murram*, 119 in sand quarries and 203 in *Bazari* and others.

Manufactures

There is no heavy industry in Vidisha District. Only five industrial establishments were working in 1969, registered under the Factories Act, 1948. These establishments were Dal mill, Hydrogenated Oil industry, Straw Product manufacture, Metal Containers and Steel-Trunk, and Transport Equipment industries.

So far, there was no large scale industrial establishment in the District.

But during the Fifth Five year Plan period (1969-74), the Madhya

Madhya Pradesh
Lamps Industry,
Vidisha

Pradesh State Industries Corporation proposed to establish 6 large establishments in the State in Joint Sector. Madhya Pradesh Lamps Industry, Vidisha is one of these. This is under construction on a 10 hectare plot of land on

1. Gwalior State Gazetteer, p. 73.

Sanchi road. With a capital investment of Rs. 2.5 crores in collaboration with Bajaj Electricals, the lamp industry is expected to go into production by the year 1976. Tubelights and bulbs worth about Rs. 3 crores per annum will be manufactured in the factory. The industry is likely to employ about 300 workers.

Large and Medium Scale Industries

Madhya Pradesh Board and Paper Mill was licensed on 22nd November 1963, as a partnership concern, with a licensed annual capacity of 2,880 tonnes pulp. At the time of establishment Rs. 10 lakhs were envisaged as investment and total employment potentiality was 100 workers. This factory started production in June, 1966 and manufactures straw board and mill board pulp. In March, 1966 total capital investment amounted to Rs. 16 lakhs. Out of this Rs. 13.50 lakh was fixed capital and Rs. 2.50 lakhs working capital. The factory employed 90 workers during the same year. The production figures regarding the factory are given below:-

Table No. V-4

Madhya Pradesh Board and Paper Mills, Vidisha

Year	Production (in kg.)	Number of workers employed
1966—67	494,123	67
1967—68	611,301	82
1968—69	1,086,447	96
1969—70	1,632,221	101
1970—71	2,034,591	101
1972—73	—	148

This factory was started in the year 1939 as a private limited concern. In 1957 a licence was given to this factory for oil and in 1967 for flour production.

The factory manufactures vegetable oil and oil cakes, wheat products and grain products. Installed capacity of the Factory is 75 tons oil seed crushing per day and 60 tons of wheat grain milling per day. By the year 1969, total investments of the Factory were Rs. 25 lakhs. Out of this Rs. 10 lakhs was fixed capital and Rs. 15 lakhs working capital. The Factory employed 250 workers.

Small Scale Industries

In the pre-Independence period, there was only one small scale unit in the District. This position continued till the First Plan period. Small Scale industries were given importance during the Second Plan period when 13 more units were established in the District. The pace of industrialisation was set in the District thereafter, and gradually 14 more small scale units were started during the Third Plan period. During the Annual Plan period (1967-69), about 23 more small scale units were established in the District. By the end of December, 1969 there were 55 small scale units (employing 5 to 9 persons and using power or 5 to 19 persons without using power) in the District. Moreover there were 893 units in the District which were either registered under the Factories Act or un-registered, having an employment of less than five workers. These small scale units are mostly located in Vidisha, Basoda and Sironj tahsils of the District. Lateri tahsil had no small scale unit by the end of December 1969. The tahsil-wise break-up of small scale units as on 31st December, 1969 is given in the following table :—

*Table No. V-5**Tahsil-wise Distribution of Small Scale Units (as on 31-12-69)*

Name of the Tahsil	No. of units which are either registered under the Factories Act or un-registered units having an employment of less than 5 workers	No. of un-regd. S.S.I. units with an employment of more than 5 workers (ie. 5-9; if using power and 5-19 if not using power)	Industrial classification wise S.S.I. units in the un-organised Sector with an employment of more than 5 workers
1	2	3	4
1. Vidisha	285	30	34
2. Basoda	208	8	8
3. Sironj	300	14	14
4. Kurwai	100	3	3
5. Lateri	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total District	893	55	59

The table in Appendix shows the details of small scale industries according to different types of production as well as their number, total employment, installed capacity and main commodities produced as on 31st December, 1969. The detailed account of these small scale units shows the diversification of product and wide dispersion of units in the District with great potentialities to

develop industrially, and with the support of infra-structure and social overheads in the planned efforts, the pace of the industrialisation in the District appears to have set well.

Cottage Industries

Main cottage industries in the District are leather industry, pottery, bamboo work, *chatai* manufacturing, village wood industry, weaving, dyeing and printing of cloth, lac bangles manufacturing, blacksmithy and wool-weaving. The details regarding these industries are discussed below.

Cloth weaving work is being done mainly in Sironj tahsil of Vidisha District. *Kolis* and *Julahas* are mainly earning their livelihood through this industry. This cottage industry manufactures mainly *dari*, Cloth Weaving, Dyeing *chhadar*, *jajam*, and *gamchha* of good quality. Sironj was & Printing, Wool famous for its dyeing and printing industry in 17th century, but now a days this industry is mainly located in Weaving Vidisha and Basoda tahsils and about 125 bundles of cloth are printed per year. Good quality *chunri*, *choli*, *rajai*, bed sheets, and *marwari lahngas* are printed here. The wool weaving industry is located mainly in Kurwai tahsil of the District. Families of *Gadariya* depend largely on this industry for their livelihood. The rugs, manufactured here, are very cheap and popular for their durability.

Lac Bangles industry is located in Basoda and Sironj tahsils of the District. Generally lac bangles are prepared in the month of August and each unit manufactured about 300 to 400 sets of bangles per month. This industry is further expanding in Kurwai tahsil. In Kurwai tahsil *gondra-grass* is available in substantial quantity and *chatais* are manufactured from it. One grass mat manufacturing cooperative society is also established at Bareth in Vidisha tahsil. Apart from this, palm trees are found in a large number in Kurwai tahsil and manufacture of *Khajoor-chatai* is also carried on here. *Sarotas* or betel clippers and *ustras* or shaving razors of Sironj are popular in the area for their cheapness and durability. Blacksmiths or *lohars* are manufacturing these as a cottage industry.

Industrial Co-operative Societies

Industrial cooperative societies are playing a very important role in industrial development of the District. In 1950-51, there were 9 industrial cooperative societies working in the District with 100 membership and Rs. 2,672 as share capital. Within a decade of planned industrial development, they increased (in 1960-61) to 46 and membership and share capital also increased to 628 and Rs. 25,013, respectively. Area covered by these societies is the whole

of Vidisha District. The figures regarding industrial cooperative societies in Vidisha District from 1960-61 to 1970-71 are given below.

Table No. V-6
Industrial Cooperative Societies

Year	Total No. of Industrial Cooperative societies	Total No. of members	Total share capital owned fund (Rs.)	Total working capital (Rs.)	Productions (Rs.)	Sales (Rs.)
1960—61	46	628	25,013	102,216	N.A.	N.A.
1965—66	60	1042	58,099	297,113	49,108	49,401
1966—67	59	1113	59,599	304,967	45,309	41,676
1967—68	57	1094	69,401	320,146	20,381	46,525
1968—69	43	808	56,206	265,272	54,112	44,508
1969—70	34	614	47,434	217,302	44,648	48,502
1970—71	10	233	25,758	127,475	40,090	43,642

As on 30th June 1971, the following industrial cooperative societies were working in the District.

1. Adarsh Bunkar Sahakari Samiti, Sironj
2. Udyogik Charamkar, Rangiyapura, Vidisha
3. Charamkar Sahakari Samiti Mohabbatpur, Lateri
4. Vishvakarma Sahakari Samiti, Sironj
5. Hasth Kala Udyog Sahakari Samiti, Basoda
6. Mechanical Moulding Sahakari Samiti, Basoda
7. Soap Udyog Sahakari Samiti, Basoda
8. It Kumbha Nirman Samiti, Vidisha
9. Tel Utpadak Sahakari Samiti, Sironj
10. Grih Nirman Vastu Utpadan Samiti, Sironj

State Assistance to Industrial Development

After Independence, the policy of the State has generally been to encourage the growth of small-scale industries, where ever possible, by giving them assistance. The Government provides the grant of subsidy on the power consumed, and also managerial assistance to industrial cooperative societies. During the First Plan period, State assistance amounting to Rs. 11,000 was provided to three units. The assistance increased to Rs. 1,30,165 given to 121 units during the Second Plan period. During the Third Plan period, assistance amou-

nting to Rs. 2,27,665 was provided to 162 units. The details of financial assistance under this Act given to small-scale units of Vidisha District till 1967-68 is given below:—

Table No. V-7
Financial Assistance to Industries

Year	Total No. of units	Loan advance (Rs.)
1963—64	20	39,850
1964—65	41	36,015
1965—66	11	15,300
1966—67	6	26,470
1967—68	34	26,050

Under this Act loans granted to small-scale industries include carpentry, leather, tyre-*chappal*, plastic harmonium, clock manufacture, steel furniture, bamboo, etc.

Another agency for the supply of financial assistance to small scale and cottage industries in the District is Madhya Pradesh Khadi Gramodyog Parishad, which provides assistance in the shape of loans and subsidy. The Parishad supplied financial assistance to industrial units and cooperative societies in Vidisha District during the Second and Third Five Year Plans and after as follows.

Table No. V-8
Loans Advanced and Subsidy Granted

Period	Loan advanced		Subsidy		
	Coop. Societies	Total amount (Rs.)	Coop. Societies	Individual units	Total amount (Rs.)
Second Five Year Plan Period	15	88,287	15	8	10,534
Third Five Year Plan Period	23	1,54,800	23	1	31,197
1966—67	3	16,425	3	—	5,950
1967—68	4	32,525	1	—	1,500

During a decade of planned industrial development, viz., Second and Third Five Year Plan period, total loans advanced were Rs. 2,43,087 to 38.

co-operative industrial societies and one individual unit. During the same period the Parishad provided Rs. 41,731 as subsidy to 38 co-operative industrial societies and to 9 individual units.

The Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation is also providing financial assistance to industries in the District. The Corporation provided loans of Rs. one lakh and Rs. 5.77 lakhs during the Second and Third Plan period, respectively. It provided Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 44,000 in 1966-67 and 1967-68, respectively. During the year 1969-70 the Corporation sanctioned loans to 6 small scale units amounting to Rs. 3.94 lakhs, and to 2 other concerns amounting to Rs. 8 lakhs.

Industrial Estate at Vidisha is situated near Teonda Sagar Road and was established on 6th December, 1963. This estate has six sheds of 120' x 60', which are provided to industrialists for establishing industries on rent basis. Apart from this, one Rural workshed was also established at Kurwai. During the Third Plan period machinery and equipments were provided for the work-shed for general purposes on payment of same fixed amount.

Industrial Potential

From the account of the mineral raw material resources in the District, given in the foregoing pages, the picture of industrial potential of the District is not encouraging. However, Industrial Survey carried on by the Industries Department in the year 1962 envisaged the possibilities of the industrial development of the District on following lines.

The cattle population of the District was 6,35,206 as per 1961 counting and hides, horns and bones are available in good quantity. Presently, the District is exporting these raw materials out of the District and imports tanned leather for its shoe manufacturing industry. For providing tanned leather to its industries tanneries could be established in the District. Power, water, bones and means of communications are available in sufficient quantity at Vidisha. Thus, there is ample scope for establishing a bone-crushing unit.

Lime-stone being available in substantial quantity in Sironj tahsil, possibility of lime manufacturing in Sironj tahsil after due assessment of the resources can be explored. It is expected that due to short-production of cement in the country, demand for lime will increase in future in building construction and white-washing. Apart from this, lime has good export possibilities in paper, iron and some chemical industries. This District has about 922 square km. area of

wood forest and at present wood furniture is manufactured at various places in the District. As there is a growing demand for good furniture due to modernisation, furniture manufacturing units producing modern designs of furniture can be established in the District successfully. Presently, the District has some small scale units manufacturing *bidis* which are utilising a very small quantity of available *tendu* leaves in its forest, rest of the *tendu* leaves are being exported. Thus, there are ample possibilities of starting *bidi* factories on a large scale in the District.

Vidisha is an agricultural District. It being the main stay of the District economy there are possibilities of starting industries for the production of biscuits and bread. Apart from wheat other raw materials, viz., malt, white-sugar and salt are also easily available in the District. About 16493 hectare area in Vidisha District is being used for the *alsi* crop. Acid can be produced from *alsi* which is used in cloth, rubber, paint, plastic and cosmetics industries. Keeping in view the production of *alsi* there is possibility of starting a paint and varnish factory in Vidisha District. Apart from *alsi*, grass is available in considerable quantity and rice straw is also available in some quantity. Therefore, there are possibilities of starting one small-scale paper mill with a capacity of 2 tons per day.

Similarly, the District yields substantial quantity of *Gwar-gum*, which is exported raw to other districts. A refined gum-factory can be started in the District. *Jwar-gum* is utilised in cloth, paper and icecream manufacturing.

It is clear from above description that Vidisha is an agricultural district and there are ample possibilities for establishing mineral, forest and agriculture based industries.

Labour and Employers' Organisations

As stated earlier, the industries in the District are generally based on agriculture and forest produce, and from being agriculture-oriented economy in the District, only a few trade unions were registered under the Trade Union's Act 1926. Till 31st March, 1969 labour and employers' organisations registered under this Act in Vidisha District are listed below:-

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	Affiliation	Membership at the time of Registration
1.	Rashtriya Congress Mazdoor Sangh, Ganj Basoda (1959)	AITUC	158
2.	Vidisha Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh, Vidisha (1961)	—	115
3.	Bidi Mazdoor Union, Sironj. (1961)	—	56
4.	Sironj Bidi Nirmata Sangh, Sironj. (1962)	—	12

1	2	3	4
5.	Dukan Evam Sansthan Karamchari Sangh, Vidisha (1962)	INTUC	63
6.	Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Karamchari Sangh, Vidisha (1966)	—	114
7.	Vidisha Nagarpalika Harijan Kamgar Congress, Vidisha (1966)	—	88
8.	Vidisha Sahkari Adikosh Evam Samiti Karmachari Sangh, Vidisha (1966)	—	235
9.	Khadya Evam Peya Padarth Mishthan Vikreta Sangh, Vidisha, (1967)	—	■

In all nine labour and employers' organisations were registered in a decade till 31st March, 1969. Out of these registrations, Bidi Mazdoor Union, Sironj, and Bidi Nirmata Sangh, Sironj, were cancelled during the year they were registered. The registrations of Rashtriya Congress Mazdoor Sangh, Basoda, Vidisha, Nagarpalika Harijan Kamgar Congress, Vidisha, and Khadya Evam Peya Padarth Mishthan Vikreta Sangh, Vidisha, were also cancelled by 1969.

Welfare of Industrial Labour

In Vidisha District, neither the trade unions nor the employers' organisations have any welfare activities for the industrial workers. After the establishment of National Government at the Centre, much of the labour welfare work was taken up on a statutory basis. The Central Government have introduced a number of labour Welfare legislations in the District and hence labour welfare activities are mostly statutory.

The Indian Factories Act, 1934 was extensively amended and replaced by the comprehensive legislation known as Factories Act, 1948. This is a Central legislation under which all factories employing 10 or more workers with power and 20 or more workers without power are covered. All the factories have to provide basic facilities like dining sheds, rest-sheds, bathing and drinking water facilities, proper covering of machines, etc. Provisions of creches for the children of working women and canteen are made compulsory. Even so, the Factories Act remains a protective legislation only for working conditions within the factory premises. There were only five factories in the District registered under the Factories Act, 1948. The rules made therein are applicable to this factory.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 is not extended in the District. Madhya Pradesh Fixation of Minimum Wages Act, 1962 is designed to

curb the sweating of industrial labour. Under this Act, the workers in Scheduled Industries are guaranteed minimum wages as fixed under the provisions of the Act. Besides the different industries, minimum wages are also fixed for different categories of workers in the same industry. Under this Act the scheduled industries in Vidisha District, like rice, pulses and flour mills, oil mills, bidi factories, stone-breaking and crushing, building and road construction and public motor transport, were covered for the purpose of fixation of minimum wages for worker in 1962.

Before the State Government's legislation of 1962, the minimum wages were being fixed in the District under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, a Central legislation. The minimum wages in the Scheduled Industries fixed under the Act of 1948, as in the year 1959, were deemed to have been fixed under the State Government legislation of 1962. In 1959 minimum wages were also fixed for agricultural factories. Again, in the year 1966, the provisions of the Act were made applicable to the shops and establishments, hotels (lodges) restaurants, cinema and saw mills in Vidisha District, by notification under the Act. Provisions of the Act were further extended in Vidisha District to printing, cotton ginning and pressing, leather tanning and leather factories in the year 1968. It is evident that the labour welfare work is mostly carried out on a statutory basis under the Central and State Government legislations. The employers are forced to undertake welfare measures, for their employees unions in the District have no welfare programme for their members.

This is a Central legislation which also extends to Vidisha District. In the year 1972, six establishments were covered under the provisions of this Act. It seeks to guarantee financial help to the dependents of the deceased workers. Both the workers and employers are required to contribute in the Fund. In Vidisha, 665 subscribers were enrolled, of which the largest were from Standard Flour and Oil Mills, Ganj Basoda (314), followed by M. P. State Road Transport Corporation, Vidisha (159). The Central Cooperative Bank (120), M.P. Board and Paper Mills, Vidisha (50), Metal Works, M. P. Laghu Udyog Nigam, Vidisha (16) and New Vijaya Talkies, Vidisha (6) were other establishments covered by the Act.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

History of Indigenous Banking

From the earliest times of human civilisation when private property rights were accepted as a part of the established social order, the urge of its accumulation and extension has been steadily at work. One can note it even in the remote past of feudal age. The use of accumulated capital was then confined primarily to money-lending and expansion of trade and other commercial activities. Gradually, by the end of the Middle Ages, there emerged a primitive capitalist class of financiers and merchants with their concentration in the small medieval towns and trading centres, controlling the bulk of the economy. This was almost a world-wide phenomenon to which Vidisha District was no exception.

During the medieval period, records of existence of great banking houses called Kothee-walas established at Sironj¹ are available. Sironj was one of the prominent trade centres during the Moghul period, where the use of Bills of Exchange was in vogue. The French traveller Tavernier records² an exchange house at Sironj which provided letters of exchange for Surat at the rate of three per cent. It, therefore, appears from the above facts that in medieval period indigenous bankers at Sironj were prominent and the use of *hundies* was in practice. The discount rate for hundies at Sironj was three per cent while the discount rate prevailing in other trading centres of the country was upto 64 per cent.

At the close of 17th century, the trading classes³ were of two types in this region. Firstly, *Banjaras* who moved from place to place and formed the chief source of communications and transport. Others were *Baniyas* belonging to Jain and Vaishnav communities, who had their own banking system and carried on most of the trade of the area. These persons had lived through generations and established big trading concerns dealing largely in all kinds of coloured calicoes⁴. By the 19th century the *Maheshwari* community emerged as a prominent indigenous banker and it has been reported that they were so prosperous that slippers of their ladies contained Jewels⁵.

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1. B. K. Bhargava, *Indigenous Banking in Ancient and Medieval India*, p. 48.
 2. J. B. Tavernier, *Travels in India*, Vol. 1, p. 28.
 3. Raghunath Singh, *Malwa in Transition*, pp. 20-21.
 4. J. B. Tavernier, op. cit., p. 56.
 5. G. S. Bhargava, *Sironj Ka Itihas*, p. 65.

Thus, the age-old institution of money-lenders had traditionally been the main agency meeting the credit requirements of the rural sector in the past and it continues to enjoy a prominent position even today in the District. The data from Reserve Bank of India Survey Report point out that over the decade 1951-52 to 1961-62, the total of annual loans to the rural sector has perhaps grown at the same rate as the gross income of the rural sector, that the relative share of money-lenders and traders as suppliers of credit has shrunk only from about three-fourths to two-thirds. Any way, the relative role of the unorganised agencies is still high and significant and may continue to be so for quite many years to come.

The borrowers are small traders, merchants, agriculturists and others. There is considerably higher rate of interest and lower turn over because of smaller marketable surplus. In this sector there is a larger fringe of unsatisfied borrowers. The indigenous bankers in the District lend short term loans and in a few cases medium term loans. Since the funds do not flow freely from one agency to another, or from one centre to another, there is always an imbalance in the demand and supply of finance. There is no free flow of information regarding the conditions of money-lending. Indigenous bankers appeared generally to be left alone to carry on their business according to their old-fashioned methods, in which their financial position with regard to their other business activities are not disclosed. Loans are often contracted and paid for not in money but in commodities especially in rural areas, and the size of the average loan is very small. These agencies advance, normally, loans of a small size in order to fortify themselves against risk of losses and also to obtain greater returns.

General Credit Facilities

The general credit facilities available in the District include the money lenders (*sahukars*), co-operative credit societies and banks, commercial banks and other organised financial institutions and loans from Government. Before dealing with these credit agencies in general and the relative role played by them in the District, it will be better to have a brief review of need for credit prevailing in the District.

Indebtedness

The Reserve Bank of India appointed in August, 1951 a committee to study the problem of rural credit in India and the districts picked for sample survey included Vidisha. The Survey was completed during the period from November, 1951 to July, 1952. According to the Rural Credit Survey, 1951 Survey, average debt per family in Vidisha District during the year 1951-52 for all families was Rs. 362 (cultivators Rs. 531 and non-cultivators Rs. 125). The average debt per indebted family was

Rs. 476 for all families (cultivators Rs. 695 and non-cultivators Rs. 186). The proportion of indebted families was 76 per cent for all families (82.3 per cent cultivators and 67.4 per cent non-cultivators). It is clear from these figures that indebtedness had a darker shadow among cultivators. The following figures give an account of cultivators under debt during the year 1951-52 in Vidisha District.—

Table No. VI-1

Debt Position in Vidisha District

Particulars	Big Cultivators	Large Cultivators	Medium Cultivators	Small Cultivators
Average debt per family (Rs.)	1,939	992	377	231
Average debt per indebted family (Rs.)	2,206	1,124	465	298
Proportion of indebted families	87.9	88.3	81.1	77.5

The growth of debt during the year covered by the Survey for all families was 84.1 per cent. It was 71.6 per cent among cultivators and 224.8 per cent among non-cultivators. As regards borrowings proportion of borrowing for all families was 67.7 per cent (74.8 per cent among cultivators and 57.8 per cent among non-cultivators) in Vidisha District in the year 1951-52. Average amount borrowed per family was Rs. 269 (Rs. 387 cultivators and Rs. 103 non-cultivators) and average amount borrowed per borrowing family was Rs. 397 (Rs. 518 cultivators and Rs. 178) non-cultivators. As regards the purposes borrowings for family expenditures were 39.6 per cent or Rs. 107 and for capital expenditure on farm 46.6 per cent or Rs. 125. About 0.1 per cent was borrowed for current expenditure, and for non-farm business expenditures the borrowings were 10.2 per cent or Rs. 27 only. About 3.5 per cent or Rs. 9 were borrowed for other purposes.

Repayment of Debt

Following are the figures regarding repayment of debt during the Survey year in Vidisha District.—

Table No. VI-2

Repayment of Debt in Vidisha District

Particulars	Cultivators	Non-Cultivators	All families
1. Proportion of repaying families	32.1	11.7	23.6
2. Repaying families as percentage of borrowing families	42.9	20.2	34.9
3. Repaying families as percentage of indebted families	39.0	17.4	31.1
4. Average amount repaid per family (Rs.)	166	16	103

Various agencies supplying credit to the cultivators and non-cultivators in the District were classified by the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee into nine classes, viz., Government co-operatives, relatives, landlords, agriculturist money-lenders, professional money-lenders, traders and commission agents, commercial banks and others. All borrowings from Government through various schemes such as the Grow More Food Campaign, etc., were accounted as from Government. Borrowings from different types of co-operative institutions such as primary credit societies, marketing societies, central co-operative banks and mortgage banks were treated as borrowings from co-operative. Only interest free loans given by relatives were treated as loans from relatives and loans bearing interest from a relative were classified as from one or the other of the appropriate agency such as the agriculturist money-lenders, professional money-lenders, etc., according to the business of the relative. Loans were classified as loans from landlords only when the loans were made by landlords to their own tenants. If a cultivator received a loan from a landlord, of whom he was not a tenant then a loan was not recorded as from a landlord, but under the appropriate agency according to the business of the landlord. An agriculturist money-lender was defined as one whose major profession was agriculture and whose money-lending business was comparatively of minor importance. The category of professional money-lenders was defined to include all those who earned a substantial part of their income from money-lending and who could not be classified as agriculturist money-lender. Borrowing from persons who were in the main, traders, commission agents, etc., were treated as borrowings from traders and commission agents. Borrowings from commercial banks, scheduled and non-scheduled, were classified as borrowings.

from commercial banks. Borrowing from agencies other than those mentioned above were classified as borrowings from 'others'.

The average amount borrowed by a cultivating family (All India average) during the year 1950-51 according to General Schedule was Rs. 210 and the corresponding average for non-cultivating families was Rs. 66, while in Vidisha District these figures were Rs. 387 and Rs. 103, respectively. In the same way the All India average debt, per cultivating and non-cultivating family was Rs. 365 and Rs. 129, respectively, while in Vidisha District average debt was Rs. 531 and Rs. 125, respectively.

The amount of outstanding debt at any time is the result of a number of transactions that have taken place in the past. The outstanding debt at the end of a year is the result of borrowing and repayments during the year adding to or subtracting from the total outstanding debt at the beginning of the year. The distribution of borrowings as well as of outstanding debts according to the type of creditor in Vidisha District during the year 1950-51 was as follows.—

Table No. VI-3

*Average Debt per family in Vidisha District in 1950-51
Classified according to credit agency*

S. No.	Agency	All Families	Cultivating Families	Non-Cultivating Families
1.	Government	7 (8.1)	50 (9.5)	— (0.3)
2.	Co-operative	17 (4.8)	29 (5.4)	2 (1.5)
3.	Relatives	34 (9.3)	55 (10.3)	4 (3.0)
4.	Landlord	15 (5.2)	26 (4.9)	9 (7.0)
5.	Agriculturist money-lenders	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6.	Professional money-lenders	249 (69.0)	356 (67.0)	101 (80.5)

Contd...

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Traders and Commission Agents	1 (0.1)	— (—)	1 (1.0)
8.	Others	12 (3.5)	15 (2.9)	8 (6.7)
Total Debt		362	531	125

(Note : Amount in rupees. Figures in brackets denote percentage to total)

According to the Rural Credit Survey Committee, the relative position of these main groups in Vidisha District in 1950-51 was as under:—

Table No. VI-4

*Average Borrowings per family in Vidisha District in 1950-51
Classified according to credit agency*

S. No.	Agency	All Families	Cultivating Families	Non-Cultivating Families
1.	Government	29 (10.6)	49 (12.6)	— (—)
2.	Co-operatives	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
3.	Relatives	12	20 (5.1)	1 (1.1)
4.	Landlords to tenants only	6 (2.2)	6 (1.6)	6 (5.4)
5.	Agriculturist money-lenders	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6.	Professional money-lenders	207 (76.9)	291 (75.1)	89 (87.4)
7.	Traders and commission Agents	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8.	Commercial Banks	5 (1.8)	8 (2.1)	— (—)
9.	Others	11 (4.0)	13 (3.5)	7 (7.0)
Total		269	287	103

(Note : Amount in rupees. Figures in brackets denote percentage to total)

The average debt for all families come to Rs. 362 out of which share of Government was Rs. 29 or 8.1 per cent and that of commercial banks was nil. Among money-lenders, share of professional money-lenders was the highest being Rs. 249 or 69 per cent followed by that of relatives Rs. 34 or 9.3 per cent, and of co-operatives Rs. 17 or 4.8 per cent. The average borrowings in Vidisha District for all families was Rs. 269, out of which the share of Government was only Rs. 29 or 10.6 per cent, that of commercial banks Rs. 5 or 1.8 per cent and co-operative's share was nil. Among money-lenders share of professional money-lenders was highest being Rs. 207 or 76.9 per cent followed by relatives being Rs. 12 or 4.5 per cent, and landlords Rs. 6 or 2.2 per cent. It is clear from the above brief description that the non-organised sector, viz., professional money-lenders and relatives played a more dominating role in supply of credit in Vidisha District than organised sector, viz., Government, co-operatives and commercial banks.

The money was borrowed from the money-lender, where the repayment of debt was extremely difficult if not exactly impossible. The money-lenders were unscrupulous and took the fullest possible advantage of ignorance and dire need of villagers. The money-lenders on the top of it charged 24 per cent interest and this augmented indebtedness rapidly. By falsifying accounts the money-lenders took full advantage of the ignorance and were ruthless. Thus the maxim 'Once in debt, always in debt' holds good literally. Most of the persons in the District lived on a marginal subsistence level and their ability to save was almost negligible. If bad reason occurs or if the persons are under conventional social necessities a lot of difficulties spring up for meeting such eventualities. The above description presents a case for strengthening the credit and financial institutions in this District.

Money-lenders

As elsewhere in India, money-lenders had a prominent position in the rural economy of the District. In this District private money-lending continued to be followed by a large number of families for generations. In the villages either big landlords or village merchants, who were non-professional money-lenders, were the major source of credit. Generally the trading class was engaged in this profession in the District. The merchants were mostly Banias (of Agrawal community) and Jains. The medium of exchange was the rupee coins and hundies.

With the attainment of Independence, various legislative measures were promulgated to regulate the business of money-lenders. The registration and licensing of money-lenders and maintenance of accounts in prescribed form was

made compulsory. Furnishing of periodical statement of accounts to debtors and issue of receipts to them for every payment received was made necessary for the money-lenders.

These money-lending regulations were viewed with alarm by the private money-lenders. They took a gloomy picture of their risks and hesitated in providing loan facilities to the poor cultivators. More so, very few of them got themselves registered. The tahsil-wise number of registered money-lenders in Vidisha District is tabulated below.

Table No. VI-5
Number of Registered Money-lenders in the District

Year	Vidisha	Basoda	Sironj	Kurwai	Lateri
1964—65	36	9	90	5	21
1965—66	36	13	34	6	20
1966—67	29	10	30	7	47
1967—68	29	11	50	4	4
1968—69	21	20	47	4	5
1969—70	34	16	38	7	5
1970—71	35	18	28	7	6

Co-operatives

The co-operative movement in Vidisha District dates back to 1916, when the Madhav District Central Co-operative Bank, Vidisha was started with a view mainly to financing the credit needs of the agricultural sector. In 1918, this Bank was registered under the Co-operative Act and a new branch opened in Ganj-Basoda in 1918. Co-operative movement was boosted further in the 'thirties, when a co-operative marketing society was started at Vidisha in 1938, called "Sarkari Adhat va Beez ki Dukan".

The progress of the co-operative movement in the District was mostly confined to the area of the erstwhile State of Gwalior, while the co-operative movement in Sironj (Tonk State), Kurwai, Mohammadgarh and Pathari states was insignificant in pre-Independence period, but it gained momentum in post-Independence period, particularly with the beginning of the planning era in the country.

The Five Year Plans have ushered in a new era of co-operative development in the District and the movement has begun to develop in diversified fields of economic activities. The co-operative movement shouldered the responsibility of providing credit and marketing facilities on a widely extended basis to a vast majority of rural population of the District. However, with the beginning of second five year Plan (1956-57), great stress was laid on strengthening the credit structure of the societies, which was to be successfully linked with production requirements of the farmers on the one hand and with marketing of agricultural produce on the other.

The District is being served with all the branches of co-operative credit, viz., (i) Co-operative Central Bank (ii) Land Development Bank and (iii) Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Primary Credit Societies. A brief description of the various co-operative credit agencies is given in the following lines.

Co-operative banking in Vidisha District started in 1916 when Madhav District Central Co-operative Bank, Bhilsa, was established on 21st January, 1916, with headquarters at Vidisha. As there was no co-operative act in force in the former Gwalior State, this bank started its functioning as a non-registered society. In 1918 with the enactment of Co-operative Act, the bank was registered on 19th July, 1918. At the time of its inception the authorised share capital of the Bank was Rs. 2,00,000 divided into 4,000 shares of Rs. 50 each. After a long gap of three decades the Bank opened its branch offices at Ganj-Basoda in 1951 and at Sironj in 1957. During the Third Plan period, branches at Lateri (1961), Shamshabad (1962), Gyaraspur (1964), and Gulabganj (1965) were opened. During the Fourth Plan period, two more branches at Teonda (1970) and Nateran (1971) were started.

In 1969-70, the Bank had an authorised capital of Rs. 50 lakh out of which Rs. 32,40,850 was paid-up capital. Working capital and reserve funds in the same year were Rs. 2,77,646 and Rs. 14,97,592, respectively. During the same year deposits and loans received by the Bank (from other financial institutions) were Rs. 69,72,757 and Rs. 1,50,40,081, respectively. Investment of the Bank during the year 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 31,27,179. As regards credit operations, the total loans advanced by the bank in the year 1969-70 amounted to Rs. 2,24,00,789 out of which loan recovery of Rs. 12,43,284 was postponed due to bad weather conditions leading to poor crops, and loans amounting to Rs. 1,61,25,186 were recovered. Overdue amount for the year was Rs. 28,83,636. In this way, the ratio of loans recovered and loans outstanding at

the end of the year 1969-70 was Rs. 2,20,80,925. The progress made by the Bank since the year 1965-66 is indicated in the following Table.

Table No. VI-6

Progress of the Central Cooperative Bank, Vidisha

(Amount in '000 Rs.)

S.No.	Particulars	Years (as on 30th June)					
		1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1.	Share Capital	2,169	2,862	2,931	3,049	3,241	3,388
2.	Working Capital	23,523	23,875	22,939	24,116	27,777	28,958
3.	Deposits	6,895	7,834	7,321	7,427	6,973	7,594
4.	Loans taken	14,478	11,842	11,639	—	10,066	16,279
5.	Loans advanced (to Cooperative Societies)	19,588	19,973	13,928	20,531	22,355	21,242
6.	Loans recovered (with interest)	19,864	16,751	17,380	19,804	19,732	20,236
7.	Profit earned	134	215	142	148	279	363
8.	Percentage of recovery	85.75	98.26	83.34	90.93	85.02	80.11

Area of operation of the Bank is the whole of Vidisha District. In 1970 it covered 1948 villages. The Bank provides short-term and mid-term loans to cultivators and member societies. The bank also transacts normal banking business in the District and accepts deposits at a very lucrative interest rate to mobilise the rural savings.

It is the co-operative Bank which connects the isolated and unbanked villages of the District with the rest of the monetary world. In other words, while the commercial banks till recently confine themselves to the organised monetary sectors, the co-operative bank shoulders the responsibility of covering the unorganised and non-monetised sectors by developing institutional credit and providing banking facilities.

The mobilisation of rural saving depends, more or less, on the co-operative banking institutions and the central co-operative bank with its branches generates rural savings to assist the financial resources needed for the economic development of the area.

The Bank was established at Vidisha on 9th January, 1962. The area of operation of this Bank is whole of Vidisha District with headquarters at Vidisha. The Bank has three branches at Vidisha (1962), Vidisha District Ganj Basoda (1968) and Sironj (1971). The Bank is also Co-operative Land starting a fourth branch office at Kurwai. The authorised Development capital of the Bank is Rs. 5 lakhs divided in 50,000 shares Bank Ltd., Vidisha of Rs. 10 each. At the time of registration its membership was 250 which increased to 1671 by the end of June, 1971. The details of working of the Co-operative Land Development Bank since the year 1966-67 are shown in the Table given below:—

Table No. VI-7

District Co-operative Land Development Bank, Vidisha

Particulars	Years				
	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
Number of borrower members	779	638	938	1,193	1,494
Number of non-borrower members	188	173	202	177	177
Share capital (Rs. '000)	75	127	194	258	339
Loans advanced (Rs. '000)	250	786	1,514	1,159	1,540

The Bank provided long and middle term loans to cultivators for capital expenditure of permanent nature to be incurred primarily on agricultural operations. In Vidisha District loans were provided mainly for small irrigation schemes, namely, for construction of wells, purchasing of oil engines, pump sets, tractors and its parts, etc. Purpose - wise figures of loan distribution since the date of its registration in 1962 to 30th June, 1970 and from 1st July, 1970 to 31st January, 1972 are as under.

Table No. VI-8

*Financing by the District Co-operative Land Development Bank, Vidisha**(Amount in Rs.)*

Purpose	From 1962 to 30th June, 1970	From July, 1970 to 31st January, 1972
1. Construction and repairing of wells	23,06,810	7,60,300
2. Pump-set and Rehat	4,23,650	1,84,850
3. Tractors and parts	11,96,500	12,12,695
4. Repayment of old debts	3,90,890	—
5. Par Bandhan and others	6,73,750	—

Contd...

1	2	3	4
6.	Nall	1,73,750	1,500
7.	Pipe-line	1,08,500	8,800
8.	Fencing	25,000	—
9.	Other implements	40,000	—

The Bank distributed loans for 34 tractors till 1971 in Ganj Basoda tahsil under a special scheme of Agricultural Refinancing Corporation. The Bank has received one more sanction of Rs. 74 lakhs under minor irrigation scheme of the Corporation to distribute loans for 1000 wells, 800 electric pumps and 200 oil engines in Ganj Basoda tahsil in the Fourth Five Year Plan period.

Primary co-operative credit societies have been functioning in the District mainly as agencies to provide short-term credit for productive purposes.

Some of these societies took the work of distributing fertilisers and manures on agency basis, though depositing and advancing loans constitute the primary function of the co-operative credit societies. In addition, following the recommendations of the working group on co-operative policy appointed by the Government of India in 1959, these societies render certain other services in the field of production and marketing of agricultural produce and encourage the habit of self help through mutual help and thrift.

The number, share capital, working capital, and credit operations of these societies are given below.—

Table No. VI-9

Primary Credit Societies in Vidisha District

(Amount in '000 Rs.)

Year	Number of Primary Credit Societies		Share Capital	Working Capital	Loans advanced	Loans out-standing
	Agricultural	Non-Agricultural				
1950—51 (at the beginning of the I Plan)	425	—	84	8,37	1,21	6,98
1955—56 (at the end of I Plan)	600	—	4,84	45,62	16,73	17,49
1960—61 (at the end of II Plan)	658	19	18,20	67,91	55,18	55,52
1965—66 (at the end of III Plan)	390	14	54,43	2,30,28	2,15,46	1,82,02
1966—67	178	16	68,41	2,88,66	2,10,70	25,22,53
1967—68	176	16	47,94	2,66,34	1,20,30	1,47,95
1968—69	175	16	51,63	2,77,93	1,71,63	2,14,72
1969—70	175	17	58,34	3,12,97	1,92,40	2,41,52
1970—71	173	20	69,73	3,36,95	1,86,53	2,65,82

The facts given above indicate that co-operative credit movement made considerable progress in the District during the Plan period. They are achieving the objects of promotion and mobilisation of capital, pooling rural savings and providing bulk of funds needed by agriculturists for productive purposes. To make them more effective in operation, efforts were made to reorganise these societies into more sizable and better organised societies after the Third Plan period. This had resulted in reducing the number of societies from 677 in 1960-61 to 194 in 1966-67, but with increased share capital of Rs. 1820 thousand and Rs. 6841 thousand, respectively, for the same years. In 1962-63 there were 793 Primary Credit and Multipurpose Societies with a membership of 23,804, share capital Rs. 14,24,783 and working capital Rs. 12,85,827. During this year deposits of these societies were Rs. 4,71,839. These societies advanced loans of Rs. 1,48,36,010. Recovery of loans was Rs. 1,02,45,439 and loans of Rs. 1,03,88,587 were outstanding of which Rs. 10,27,143 were overdue.

In 1969-70, though the number of primary co-operative societies decreased due to reorganisation scheme, membership increased to 29,985 and share capital and working capital to Rs. 59,90,511 and Rs. 3,05,63,877, respectively. Deposits increased to Rs. 18,11,366 in the same year. In 1969-70, these societies advanced loans of Rs. 1,89,26,910. Recovery of loans was to the tune of Rs. 1,59,67,306 while loans of Rs. 2,40,08,639 were outstanding of which Rs. 65,92,693 were overdue. Detailed figures of these primary credit and multipurpose societies in Vidisha District for the last five years are given in Appendix.

In 1962-63 average deposits and average loans advanced per society was Rs. 1200 and Rs. 37,750 which increased to Rs. 2587 and Rs. 41,206, respectively, in 1965-66. Deposits and loans advanced per society shows a regular upward trend and in 1969-70 average deposits and average loan advanced per society reached Rs. 10,350 and Rs. 1,08,153, respectively. In the same way average deposits and average loans advanced per member in 1962-63 were Rs. 19 and Rs. 438, respectively. This average increased to Rs. 38 and Rs. 598 in 1965-66 and Rs. 631 in 1969-70, respectively. Deposits and loans advanced per society and per member in Vidisha District since 1965-66 are as under.

Table No. VI-10

Average Deposits and Loans of Co-operative Societies in the District
(in Rs.)

Year	Average per society		Average per member	
	Deposits	Loans advanced	Deposits	Loans advanced
1965-66	2,587	41,206	38	598
1966-67	6,794	1,15,375	42	718
1967-68	6,807	69,765	41	421

Contd...

1	2	3	4	5
1968—69	8,566	97,122	51	585
1969—70	10,350	1,08,153	60	631
1970—71	11,924	1,06,431	67	595

Joint Stock Banks

History of commercial banking in Vidisha District starts from 1935 when the Imperial Bank started its branch office at Ganj Basoda and at Vidisha in 1938. In 1938, after the establishment of a *mandi* at Sironj, permission was granted to open a branch office of the Imperial Bank at Sironj, but for some reason the plan could not materialise. During the Second World War period a branch office of the Bharat Bank, Delhi, was opened at Vidisha, in 1945, but on 10th March, 1952 the Bank was amalgamated with the Punjab National Bank.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948 a branch office of the Punjab National Bank was started at Vidisha in April, 1948. The United Commercial Bank also opened its branch office at Vidisha. Offices of Imperial Bank were working at Vidisha and Ganj Basoda in 1948. Till March, 1953 pay offices of Imperial Bank were functioning at Vidisha and Ganj Basoda and one pay-office of the United Commercial Bank at Vidisha.

There was only one bank office in 1941 functioning at Vidisha. The number of banks increased to 2 and 3 in 1946 and 1947, respectively. Till 1960 the number of bank offices remained 3 at Vidisha but it decreased to 2 in 1951. At Ganj Basoda, however only one bank office functioned from 1941 to 1951, for the whole of the decade, and after one more decade on 18th August, 1961, the State Bank of Indore started its branch office at Ganj Basoda.

By the year 1967-68 there were three branches of the State Bank of Indore at Ganj Basoda, Sironj and Vidisha and one branch of United Commercial Bank at Vidisha. In 1969-70 two more branches of the State Bank of Indore were opened at Lateri and Kurwai.

There were only four bank offices in Vidisha District by the end of 1967. The banking activities increased rapidly after 1968 and particularly

after the nationalisation of banks in August 1969. The number of bank offices increased from 4 in 1968 to 7 by the end of September, 1970. The commercial bank offices in Vidisha District as at the end of September, 1970 were as follows.—

Name of the Centre	Name of the bank	Type and number of offices
1. Ganj Basoda	1. State Bank of Indore	1 (B)
2. Lateri	1. State Bank of Indore	1 (B)
3. Kurwai	1. State Bank of Indore	1 (B)
4. Sironj	1. State Bank of Indore	1 (P.O.)
5. Vidisha	1. Punjab National Bank	1 (B)
	2. State Bank of Indore	1 (B)
	3. United Commercial Bank	1 (B)

Note—(B) Branch office, (P.O.) Pay office

In the District there were 5 branches of the State Bank of Indore, and one branch each of the Punjab National Bank and the United Commercial Bank by the end of September, 1970. The District Central Co-operative Bank is also transacting banking business in the District.

By the end of December, 1967, average population per banking office in Vidisha District was 1,42,000 while the State average was 1,31,000. With the branch expansion activities, the average population per banking office in the District was 88,000 compared to 1,16,000 persons per banking office (average) in Madhya Pradesh at the end of September, 1970. Vidisha District ranked 186 in the country in average population per-office of commercial banks in district-wise data arranged in ascending order of population at the end of September, 1970.

The figures upto 1968 are available only for all commercial banks but since Vidisha District had offices of not more than two banks, the figures of deposits and bank credit were not given because their publication would involve disclosure of business figures pertaining to individual banks. Out of the seven Bank offices functioning in the District in 1970, 3 were at Vidisha and 4 at other business centres. In the year 1970 bank deposits in Vidisha town and other places were Rs. 81 lakhs and Rs. 23 lakhs, respectively, totalling to Rs. 104 lakhs for the District. It is evident from these figures that banking activities in the District are mainly concentrated in industrial and urban areas of Vidisha town, while rural areas were least affected by banking transactions till 1970.

The role that any banking system has to play is to mobilise the savings of the nation to provide the cheap means of payment and to allocate credit in such a way as to produce optimum productivity in all sectors. The banks, thus, control the string of economic life of the community. The commercial banks in the District were concentrated at places of agricultural marketing, industry and trade, which are mainly the characteristic of urban centres in the District.

The nationalisation of leading commercial banks appears to have raised the expectations of the cultivators in regard to the availability of credit on reasonable terms in the District. The nationalised banks are expected to play very important and more active role in the economic rejuvenation of the District. As a catalytic agent they have to function by making differential contribution to those sectors which have been accorded high priority in the development. A more purposeful regulation of credit is the first thing that can be expected of them. To be more effective in this direction, the opening of bank offices at Vidisha, Lateri and Kurwai in 1969 and 1970 is a step forward. It is expected that the centre chosen for location of the bank offices in future should have the potential of ultimately emerging as 'Growth Centre'.

Lead Bank Scheme

An important break though in the field of banking activities has been made in the District towards the close of 1969 with the introduction of Lead Bank Scheme in the District. The State Bank of Indore is Lead Bank for Vidisha District. Under the Scheme, efforts will be made for identifying the territorial and functional credit gaps and of making recommendations for the extension of adequate institutional credit at reasonable terms to neglected and weaker sections of the community, and suggestions for the development of credit and banking in the District. An initial survey of the resources and potential of the District is carried out which would create a base to enable the bank to identify centres and areas in the District that are in need of banking services and offer potential for development.

Government Finance

Government assistance to agriculturists in the form of loan called *taccavi* in times of flood, famine and such emergencies has been traditional in India and in Vidisha District. This practice of granting such loans continued, under various regulations and, later, under Taccavi Acts. Subsequent to the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1880, loan operations were systematised and more so with the passing of the Land Improvement Act, 1883, and the Agriculturist's Loans Act, 1884.

As a result of the growing seriousness of the food problem in India during World War II, the Government of India launched the Grow More Food Campaign in the year 1943. The campaign was continued in the post war period. An important feature of this campaign was the provision of finance for various agricultural purposes of seed, manure, etc. The financial assistance from Government was generally limited to the purposes specifically stipulated in the Acts.

No loans were reported to be sanctioned in the year 1950-51 in Vidisha District under the Land Improvement Act, 1883, and the Agriculturists Loans Act, 1884, according to the report of All India Rural Survey Committee.

The Survey reports that in 1950-51 Government finance to agriculture in Vidisha District was Rs. 4,47,405 and the whole amount was under the Grow More Food Campaign. As regards the disbursement of loans, in all 99 cases of loans were disbursed amounting to Rs. 32,516. Out of these 32 loans were for purchase of seeds, 3 for digging and repair of wells and 52 for purchase of live-stock amounting to Rs. 2,481 and Rs. 12,575, respectively during the year. These loans were borrowed fully for farm expenditures. Rate of interest charged by the Government on these loans was 3 to 5 per cent.

Small Saving Schemes

The organisations attracting and mobilising the savings in the District may be grouped as (1) Post Office Saving Schemes and (2) Life Insurance. The small saving schemes that continued their operations in the District are (1) Post Office Saving Bank Account (2) 12 Year National Plan Certificates (3) 10 Year Treasury Savings Deposits (4) 15 Year Annuity Certificates and (5) Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme.

The gross and net deposits in the said schemes from 1963-64 to 1970-71 in Vidisha District were as follows:—

Table No. VI-11

Small Saving Schemes in the District

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Progressive Total		Yearly net target
	Gross	Net	
1963—64	3,57,234 (5,72,275)	87,516 (1,45,178)	5 lakhs
1964—65	3,10,096 (3,57,234)	(—) 26,958 (87,516)	5 lakhs

Contd...

1	2	3	4
1965—66	6,04,807 (3,10,096)	1,29,855 (—) (26,958)	5 lakhs
1966—67	54,113 (6,04,807)	3,99,712 (1,49,855)	12 lakhs
1967—68	6,89,574 (54,113)	2,00,751 (3,99,712)	12 lakhs
1968—69	13,16,386 (6,89,574)	3,34,489 (2,00,751)	8 lakhs
1969—70	10,96,339	3,26,436	8 lakhs
1970—71	11,59,000	5,38,000	8 lakhs

(The figures given in brackets are of Reserve Bank of India. Rest are from Head Post Office).

Life Insurance

Insurance business is a vast source for attracting the savings with risk-covering. In Vidisha District six Development Officers and 76 agents were working in 1968 and the target was fixed for Rs. 60 lakhs, for the same year. The business figures of Life Insurance in Vidisha District are given below:—

Table No. VI-12

Life Insurance in the District

Year	Number of Policies	Sum Assured (in lakhs Rs.)
1963—64	784	32.12
1964—65	702	32.24
1965—66	714	34.29
1966—67	592	39.81
1967—68	644	41.75

Apart from the life insurance business, the Corporation has also undertaken fire, marine and other general insurance business with effect from 1st April, 1964.

The special feature which draws particular attention is the introduction of Salary Saving Scheme in important industrial and educational institutions of the District whereby the assured is saved from remitting or depositing the insurance premium individually. Here the employer deducts the premium from his salary. The Life Insurance Corporation is also giving agency to co-operative societies which would definitely help in effective promotion of Life Insurance business in rural areas.

Other Financial Institutions

There is no stock exchange in Vidisha District. The District is, however, being served by a branch of Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation since October, 1969. As on 31st March, 1970, the Corporation sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3.94 lakhs to 6 small scale industries, and Rs. 8 lakhs to two business concerns. The amount disbursed on that date was Rs. 2.67 lakhs to 5 small scale industries, and Rs. 7 lakhs to the other two concerns.

Currency and Coinage

As Vidisha District was Bhilsa Zila of the erstwhile Gwalior State and Sironj was a part of Tonk State, the history of coinage and currency of the present district remained closely related to these States.

According to the Gwalior State Gazetteer of 1907, "when the Gwalior State was founded, the prevalent forms of coinage were those of the Mughals and few local issues made by Rajput Chiefs. Mughal mints were situated at several places still within the limits of the State, coins issuing from Ujjain, Bhilsa, Gwalior and Narwar, while others such as Agra and Ajmer were at one time in the hands of Sindhia".¹

"With the fall of Mughal power the Maratha chiefs acquired or assumed the right to coin, the coins being issued in the name of the Mughal Emperor".² Later on a debased *Balashahi* rupee was coined by the Darbar while maintaining a fine issue at Gwalior and debased the Chanderi rupee.³ In 1907, Ganj Basoda also had a mint and Gwalior coin of silver was issued at Ganj Basoda mint by Jankoji Rao.⁴

References are there to show that in Sironj area in Akbar's time, business was mostly transacted in round *muhars*, *rupiyas* and *dams*.⁵ In Mughal period

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 96.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.*

4. *ibid.*

5. *Ain-i-Akbari*, p. 33.

Sironj Mint was very prominent. In all 28 mints were listed in *Ain-i-Akbari*. Of these Sironj mint was given 23rd place, where copper coins were struck.¹ Apart from this Nawab-Baziruddola (1834-64) had minted his own coin in Sironj mint. This coin was weighted 11 *mashas* and was in currency till 1902 at Sironj.² After the death of Baziruddola in 1864, Mohammad Ali Khan became Nawab and issued his own coin³.

When the Britishers took occupation of this area, Indian silver coins of following weights and denominations were in circulation in the District.⁴

Denomination	Weight in grains	Touch or pure silver in 100 parts	Pure contents in 100 grams
Bhilsa	169.62	86.5	146.65
Sironj	168.35	84.8	142.75

With the merger of these States into the Indian Union, uniformity in coins and currency was introduced throughout the country and decimal system of currency is in operation since 1957 in the District.

Trade and Commerce

Malwa, to which the present District of Vidisha belongs, had been a centre of culture and civilization for centuries. The roads that passed through Malwa were military as well as trade routes. The commercial activities of this region received an added impetus from these routes. During the Mughal period, Sironj was a prominent city on the direct route between the Deccan and Agra and Delhi in north. The European traders who had settled on the western coast, generally travelled by these routes. They, thus, provided an opportunity to facilitate trade and commerce along these routes. When Abul Fazl, a minister in Akbar's regime passed through Sironj in 1593, he called Sironj a *bandar* which means a prominent business city.⁵ The inscription at Rusalli-hat and Bamoria village record that during the time of Jehangir (1605-27) these villages (near Sironj) were prominent business centres.⁶

1. G. S. Bhargava, op. cit., p. 31.

2. ibid. p. 65.

3. ibid. p. 67.

4. B. K. Bhargava, *Indigenous Banking in Ancient and Medieval India*, pp. 301-305.

5. G. S. Bhargava, op. cit., p. 31.

6. ibid. p. 32.

Tavernier, who visited the area in the 17th century described Sironj as being crowded with merchants and artisans and famous for its *muslins* and *chintzes*.¹ Regarding *muslin* Tavernier wrote that "it was so fine that when it is on the person you see all the skin as though it were uncovered. The merchants were not allowed to export it, and the Governor sends all of it for the great Moghul's seraglio and for the principal courtiers".² At Sironj coloured cloth was also produced in abundance.³ It was known as *chintz* and was exported to foreign countries also. Though calicos were made in many other places, yet those made and printed at Sironj were the most famous.⁴

The *chintz* made in Malwa was exported to Persia and Turkey in large quantity, where it was used by the common people for their dresses, bed-covers and table-cloths, and suited to their tastes. The trade of this produce was in the hands of Armenian traders, who dwelt there, but many times European traders also visited Sironj to do business in cloth.⁵ The *chintz* was sold at the rate of 20 to 60 rupees the corage or thereabout.⁶ Beside this, tents were also manufactured at Sironj which were in great use in Maratha Army.⁷

Sironj was, thus, a main trading centre of the region. To afford convenience to the customers, particularly the passengers in convoys, who come riding on horses and camels, the shops in the market at Sironj were two storeyed. The upper storey was convenient to riders of horses and camels, while ground floor shops were suitable for other customers. These two storey shops are the peculiarity of the city and exist even today. However, the prosperity of Sironj area declined with the fall of the Mughal empire, which effected trade and commerce.

With the construction of a section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railways at the end of 19th century, transport facilities were made available at (Bhilsa) Vidisha, Sumer, Gulabganj, Pabai, Ganj Basoda and Kulhar stations in the District. With the absence of metalled roads in the District, the trade centres of the District shifted to railway stations and Vidisha and Ganj Basoda developed as main trade centres of the District.

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1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, vol. xxii, p. 39.
 2. J. B. Tavernier, op. cit., pp. 56-57.
 3. Raghbir Sinh, op. cit., p. 6.
 4. J. B. Tavernier, op. cit., pp. 29, 30, 56.
 5. Raghbir Sinh, op. cit., p. 7.
 6. J. B. Tavernier, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 5.
 7. Raghbir Sinh, op. cit., p. 353.

Persons engaged in Trade and Commerce

According to the Census of 1961, the number of persons engaged in business activities was 6,884 (6,174 males and 710 females), of which 4,239 persons (3,975 males and 264 females) were in the urban areas and 2,645 persons (2,199 males and 446 females) in rural areas. Tahsil-wise number of persons engaged in trade and commerce in Vidisha District in 1961 is given below :

*Table No. VI—13**Persons Engaged in Trade and Commerce in Vidisha District*

Tahsil	Males	Females	Total Persons
Vidisha	2,400	304	2,704
Ganj Basoda	1,794	162	1,956
Kurwai	489	89	578
Sironj	1,312	122	1,434
Lateri	179	33	212
Total	6,174	710	6,884

The trading activities are generally of retail type and are concentrated in urban areas. The detailed figures regarding persons engaged in trade and commerce in urban and rural areas are given in Appendix.

Course of Trade

Since the individual economic entity of the districts and places is fast disappearing with the rapid increase of means of transport and communication, it is difficult to mention in absolute terms, the volume of outflow or exports and inflow or import of the commodities from and to the District. Inward and outward figures from some important *mandi* centres in Vidisha District, however, will be dealt.

Railway Out-agency, Sironj

Before establishment of railway out-agency at Sironj in February, 1966 most of the exports and imports were done via Ganj Basoda railway station. But the starting of the out-agency gave a momentum to business activities of Sironj *mandi* and market. Figures regarding exports and imports through Sironj out-agency since 1966 are as under :—

Table No. VI—14

*Inwards and Outwards through Railway Out-Agency, Sironj**(Quantity in Qnts.)*

Year	Imports		Exports	
	Goods	Parcel	Goods	Parcel
1966	2,805	561	18,292	112
1967	4,013	920	49,924	122
1968	3,599	921	76,250	122
1969	3,821	1,086	91,158	169
1970	5,575	1,248	76,040	135

Regulated Market

Market regulation is a socio-economic reform. Regulated markets have come up to solve many problems of agricultural marketing and to make it more orderly and efficient, particularly at the assembling point. Their main object is to regulate sale and purchase of agricultural produce, create conditions for fair competition, and thus ensure a square deal to the producer and seller. The regulated market or *mandies* in the District are functioning at Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Sironj, Shamshabad, Gulabganj and Kurwai.

The market regulation has helped in eliminating many malpractices formerly prevalent in the markets. Now it has brought general awakening among the cultivators. They are now conscious of the benefits brought to them through market regulation. Consequently cultivators themselves bring their produce for disposal in these markets where they have better opportunities for getting competitive and fair prices than those available elsewhere in the area.

Vidisha Mandi

Vidisha *mandi* was established in the year 1923. The main commodities transacted in the *mandi* are wheat, gram *deshi* and *gulabi*, linseed, *joar*, *masoor batra*, *teora* and *til*. The quantum of these commodities entered in the *mandi* for some selected years is presented below :

Table No. VI—15

Arrivals in Vidisha Mandi

(Quantity in '000 Qntrs.)

Name of the commodity	Arrivals in the mandi during the year					
	1961-62	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
Wheat	262	114	84	153	237	156
Gram <i>deshi</i>	25	51	28	23	22	38
Gram <i>gulabi</i>	47	109	96	45	42	61
Linseed	15	16	11	13	13	21
Juar	9	19	16	23	26	20
Masoor	10	27	17	20	20	30
Batra	23	3	0.62	0.40	1	4
Teora	3	15	4	2	6	16
Til	0.20	4	7	2	2	0.71

Sironj Mandi

Sironj Mandi which was previously known as Sadatganj, was established in March, 1938. The main commodities transacted in the market are wheat, gram, *juar*, maize, *rahar*, *alsi*, groundnut, *batra*, *moong*, *masoor*, *teora*, *sarson*, *rameli*, *tilli* and *kanji*. These commodities are mainly sent to Indore, Bhopal, Sagar, Katni, Damoh, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Dhar, Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Mhow, Gwalior, Ashoknagar and Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh. These commodities are also sent to Bombay, Poona, Nagpur, Sholapur, Amravati, Akola and Baroda, Ahmedabad, Surat and Wardha. The Sironj *mandi* also sends commodities to Calcutta, Patna, Madras, Hyderabad, Lalitpur, Agra, Dhamangaon and Surendra Nagar. Thus, the Sironj *mandi* is playing a prominent role in linking Madhya Pradesh commercially with other States.

The quantity of these commodities sent through Sironj *mandi* is given below :—

Table No. VI—16
Outwards from Sironj Mandi

(Quantity in Qnts.)

Name of the Commodity	Outward in the year					
	1961-62	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
Wheat	23,937	44,431	30,775	47,612	28,918	41,953
Gram	11,224	19,391	18,289	26,695	45,185	52,512
Juar	21,291	62,232	65,536	66,963	22,920	34,116
Maize	639	2,525	6,064	1,201	47	5,574
Rahar	Nil	56	1,037	1,059	467	2,767
Alsi	7,945	5,887	15,585	13,492	29,373	20,301
Groundnut	6	18	54	150	125	56
Batra	48	10	10	10	307	87
Moong	913	Nil	Nil	1,017	129	228
Masoor	350	634	895	1,238	1,948	2,310
Teora	Nil	102	87	331	999	—
Sarson	2,309	165	3,717	5,586	7,170	4,889
Rameli	646	1,183	2,460	796	1,603	1,952
Tilli	278	1,381	1,082	950	210	308
Kanji	Nil	72	51	484	160	14

Shamshabad Mandi

Shamshabad mandi was established on 1st January, 1957. The main commodities transacted in this mandi are wheat, gram *deshi*, gram *gulabi* and *juar*. The inwards in this mandi are given below :—

Table No. VI—17
Arrivals in Shamshabad Mandi

(Quantity in Qnts.)

Year	Inward				
	Wheat	Gram <i>gulabi</i>	Gram <i>deshi</i>	Juar	Others
1962-63	9,011	1,490	2,605	5,843	8,207
1963-64	9,017	1,319	3,218	12,224	13,063
1964-65	5,171	776	3,070	13,163	13,534
1965-66	1,436	3,043	3,427	8,046	9,583
1966-67	9,571	1,886	6,950	6,841	6,849
1967-68	5,272	869	2,397	7,704	—
1968-69	7,990	1,096	3,150	5,813	—
1969-70	6,611	447	1,667	4,471	—

Kurwai Mandi

The main commodities transacted in the *mandi* are wheat, gram, *gulabi* gram, *Juar* and *alsi*. The quantity of these commodities imported and exported were as under :

Table No. VI—18

Inwards and Outwards in Kurwai Mandi

(Quantity in Qnts.)

Year	Inward					Outward				
	Wheat	Gram deshi	Gram gulabi	Juar	Alsi	Wheat	Gram gulabi	Gram deshi	Juar	Alsi
1962-63	10,187	1,996	2,499	70	1,090	1,000	1,996	2,499	70	1,090
1963-64	2,831	147	200	—	—	2,801	147	200	—	—
1964-65	5,709	187	57	3	108	5,700	157	57	3	64
1965-66	50,949	6,713	12,626	23,699	1,499	50,909	—	12,626	23,600	89
1966-67	21,235	1,896	2,235	12,202	365	2,100	1,896	2,235	12,200	65
1967-68	3,573	406	1,469	15,628	110	3,570	406	1,400	15,628	130
1968-69	7,571	1,478	774	4,735	589	6,593	1,060	774	4,705	388
1969-70	2,228	1,517	485	999	337	—	—	—	—	—
1970-71	4,155	380	212	414	138	—	—	—	—	—

Centres of Wholesale Business

All the tahsils, except Lateri tahsil, have wholesale market in the District. The important wholesale business centres in the District are at Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Sironj, Kurwai, Gulabganj and Shamshabad. By the end of 1970, Vidisha, Sironj, Ganj Basoda and Gulabganj were the regulated markets in the District. These *mandies* are mainly trading in grains and other agricultural commodities.

Retail Markets

The important retail trading centres in the District are Vidisha, Gyaspur, Gulabganj, Ganj Basoda, Teonda, Shamshabad, Kurwai, Pathari, Sironj, Deepnakheda, Lateri, Anandpur, Unarasital, Unarasikala, Tonkra and Satpara. In these places weekly and fortnightly markets are also held.

Fairs and Melas

Fairs and ~~melas~~ play an important role in business transactions. Melas have since long been an inevitable part of the District's religious life and agricultural economy. Later on, they started assuming commercial character also. The periodical fairs were important gathering places. Most of the villages have a weekly market at which necessities are brought and sold. Grain, oil-seeds, cattle, etc., are purchased by agents of firms and general public. In Vidisha District 23 fairs are held, the most important being at Vidisha (Ramlila Mela), Lateri (cattle-fair), Ganj Basoda (cattle fair), Shivratri Mahadeo Mela at village Udaipur, Ramnavami Mela at village Udaigiri and Ramlila Mela at Gyaraspur. Aliganj Mela and Gangour Mela at Sironj are very popular since the last century. A list showing particulars of fairs in Vidisha District is given in Appendix.

Co-operative Marketing

It is increasingly recognised that the co-operative form of organisation can play a significant and predominant role in improving the system of agricultural marketing. The idea of co-operation in the field of marketing was primarily introduced with the hope that it would bring prosperity to the agricultural classes. Government policy of undertaking the large-scale programme of procurement of food grains and putting emergency levy on producers added more importance to the movement of co-operative marketing in the District.

Though the cooperative marketing started in 1938 in Vidisha District when *Sarakari Adhatve Beeza Ki Dukan* was established at Vidisha, yet it was only during the Second Plan period that the organisation of marketing societies was taken in hand. Till 1960, four marketing societies were working at Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Sironj and Kurwai. In 1960-61 these societies had 564 individual members, Rs. 1,10,000 as share capital and Rs. 7,31,000 as working capital which increased in 1968-69 to 982, Rs. 5,76,000 and Rs. 23,41,000, respectively. Details regarding co-operative marketing societies are given below :—

Table No. VI—19

Co-operative Marketing Societies in the District

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Share Capital	Working Capital
1964-65	4	1027	2,52,627	19,24,520
1965-66	4	1098	4,08,021	10,57,999
1966-67	4	1141	4,83,134	9,20,935

Contd...

1	2	3	4	5
1967-68	4	973	4,85,104	19,44,264
1968-69	4	1179	5,75,789	23,40,880
1969-70	4	1260	6,39,019	—
1970-71	4	1366	10,15,919	36,86,601

By the end of 1971 there were four co-operative marketing societies in Vidisha District at Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Sironj and Kurwai. Co-operative Marketing Society, Vidisha was registered on 12th December, 1957 and of Ganj Basoda on 23rd December, 1957. Sironj and Kurwai marketing societies were registered on 26th March, 1959 and 18th August, 1960, respectively.

The area of operation of Vidisha Society is Vidisha and Gyaspur development blocks, and that of Ganj Basoda society is Ganj Basoda and Nateran development blocks. In the same way, Sironj marketing society covered the area of Sironj and Lateri development blocks, and Kurwai marketing society covered Kurwai development block. The volume of business transacted by these four marketing societies in Vidisha District during the years 1969-70 is given below :—

Table No. VI—20

*Volume of Business Transacted in the District
(1969-70)*

(in Rs.)

Name of the Society	Sale of agricultural produce	Sale of fertilisers	Sale of agricultural implements	Sale of Cement, Iron, Iron Sheets, etc.
Vidisha	8,93,192	55,059	—	1,08,220
Ganj Basoda	9,30,685	15,850	56,812	1,04,752
Sironj	7,08,530	6,869	42,319	31,055
Kurwai	2,73,580	17,267	—	—

In 1969-70 these Co-operative Marketing Societies sold in Vidisha District agricultural produce worth Rs. 38,05,988, fertilisers for Rs. 95,045, agricultural implements for Rs. 99,131 and cement, iron and iron-sheets for Rs. 2,44,027. Detailed figures of business activities of these societies for the years 1965 to 1971 are given in the Appendix.

District Wholesale Consumers Co-operative Stores, Vidisha was registered on 26th November, 1966. But this Store started functioning from January, 1970.

Area of operation of this Store is whole of Vidisha District and Sanchi development block in Raisen district. The Store has Zila Thok Sahakari Upphokta its branches at Vidisha, Ganj Basoda, Sironj and Kurwai. The Bhandar, Vidisha main commodities transacted by the Store are *kirana*, cloth, cosmetics, foodgrains, sugar and other controlled goods. The share capital and membership of the Store was Rs. 1,57,483 and 1061, respectively, in 1966-67. Government granted one lakh rupees (Rs.75,000 loans and Rs. 25,000 subsidy) for construction of a godown and for purchasing a truck during the same year.

In 1969-70 the number of members of the store was 1057 and share capital and working capital Rs. 1,74,968 and Rs. 2,49,326, respectively. During this year, purchase and sale of the Store were of Rs. 3,58,128 and 2,76,788, respectively.

In 1938 this Society was started as *Sarakari Adhat va Beez ki Dukan*. On 18th December, 1957 it was registered as Vidisha Co-operative Marketing Society Limited, Vidisha, and was reorganised on 15th December, 1966 as a result of Government policy to bring Co-operative Marketing Society, uniformity in marketing societies. The society is assisting Vidisha agriculturists by supplying them fertilisers, agricultural implements, seeds, oil-engines, pump-sets, etc., and by marketing of agricultural produce of their members. The Society transacts in wheat, *juar* gram, *gulabi* gram, etc. Apart from this, the Society is also providing sugar, iron, wheat, *maida* and rice to consumers at a fair price.

The Society has its godowns at Vidisha and Gulabganj. It earned profit of Rs. 1,78,880 in 1965-66, Rs. 57,492 in 1966-67 and Rs. 35,675 in 1967-68. In 1968, the number of members of the Society was 416. It included 42 co-operative societies, 218 individual members, 156 nominal members and Government. Detailed figures of this Society are tabulated below :—

Table No. VI—21
Progress of Co-operative Marketing Society, Vidisha

(Amount in Rs.)

Particulars	Years				
	1957-58	1960-61	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
1. Membership (Number)	360	387	413	415	418
2. Paid-up Share Capital	33,505	39,925	1,24,509	1,38,004	1,42,124
3. Working Capital	3,66,654	3,72,178	9,36,885	7,79,235	6,88,503
4. Loans Outstanding	3,01,218	2,51,400	1,270	1,270	1,270
5. Fertiliser distribution	—	2,399	6,280	18,140	14,737
6. Seed distribution	—	—	—	—	2,53,214
7. Sale of Agricultural implements	—	4,656	1,225	8,550	11,082
8. Purchase of foodgrains	—	69,909	13,790,885	66,12,128	16,29,940

State Trading

The state trading activities gained importance during post-Independence period and particularly after the promulgation of Madhya Pradesh Wheat Procurement (Levy) Order, 1965. Under this Act, foodgrains were procured through levy from the licensees dealing in foodgrains at the rate of 40 per cent of stock held by them, through co-operative marketing societies. The main aim of the scheme was the procurement and distribution of essential commodities, viz., wheat, rice, sugar, etc. The details for different commodities are given below :—

Madhya Pradesh Rice Procurement (Levy Order) 1960, promulgated by the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture Department, was enforced in the District with effect from 6th November, 1967.

Rice Under this order, 60 per cent levy was to be taken from all licensed dealers and rice mills on the purchases of rice from rice producing districts. Food Corporation of India was authorised as Agent of the State Government to purchase the levy. However, since Vidisha District is not a rice producing district, no levy could be recovered.

The new policy of distribution of sugar was introduced with effect from November, 1967 by the Government of India. According to this, 60 per cent levy sugar was under control and was being distributed to the consumers on their ration cards through fair-price shops and the rest 40 per cent of the production was being sold by the Sugar licensees in the open market. The levy sugar was meant for domestic consumption only and as such supplies for commercial purposes had been stopped for some time to hotels, *halwais* etc. In the year 1969, 118 tons of sugar quota was allotted by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies, Bhopal, for Vidisha District, out of which 88 tons was for rural areas and 30 tons for urban areas. In urban areas sugar was distributed at the rate of 250 grams per month for one person through retailers on ration card system and 210 grams per month for one person in rural areas through Gram Panchayats.

Wheat was procured by imposing 50 per cent levy on stocks purchased by licensed food grain dealers under Wheat Procurement Levy Order, 1968. It was also decided by the State Government to accept voluntary offers for sale from licensed dealers over and 50 per cent levy. Procurement from cultivators was also made in case cultivators offered wheat to the Food Corporation of India for sale. The licensed dealers were free to transport levy-paid stock from one place to another without any restrictions within the State after obtaining levy-paid certificate from authorised department. Food Corporation of India was appointed agent by the State

Government and rates for purchase of wheat were fixed at Rs. 81 for A grade and Rs. 75 and Rs. 74 per quintal for B and C grades, respectively in 1969. In the same year sale rates for these three classes of wheat were fixed at Rs. 97, Rs. 92 and Rs. 90 per quintal. About 2,05,765 quintals of wheat was procured in Vidisha District by the Corporation during this year.

According to procurement policy of *kharif* season's crops, the percentage of levy of *Juar* was 50 per cent. Purchases were made by the Food Corporation of India as the authorised agent of the State Government.

Juar In 1968-69, 42,770 quintals of *juar* was procured at the rate of Rs. 52 per quintal.

Distribution of procured *Juar*, wheat and rice is controlled by the Director of Food and Civil Supplies. Quotas were allotted to District as per availability of food grains after assessment of minimum requirements to be distributed through fair price shops, functioning under Madhya Pradesh Food Stuffs Distribution Control Order 1960. In Vidisha District there were two centres for procurement of food grains at Ganj Basoda and Vidisha. Prices of distribution were fixed by the Government. There was statutory rationing in Vidisha District for food grains and sugar in the year 1970. There were 8 fair-price shops in the District in 1969. Out of these, 4 were at Vidisha, 2 at Ganj Basoda and one each at Sironj and Kurwai. These shops were started in January, 1966 during the period of national emergency. In 1968 only rice was distributed through these shops.

Being surplus in respect of food grains and in some of the important cash crops like groundnut and oil seeds, the prospects and utility of ware-housing in the District is an important feature of its agricultural economy.

Ware-housing Two ware-housing centres of the Madhya Pradesh Ware-housing Corporation were opened at Vidisha on 1st October, 1959 and at Ganj Basoda on 27th February, 1961. Kurwai centre was opened in January, 1966 and Sironj and Gulabganj Centres in January 1967. Later, in February, 1970 Sironj and Gulabganj Centres were closed. Ordinarily wheat, *Juar*, gram, oil seeds and pulses, etc., are the main commodities being accepted in the ware house centres. The agriculturists and businessmen on production of their warehouse receipts can take a loan to the tune of 70 to 75 per cent from the commercial banks. With a view to encouraging co-operative societies, it has been decided to give a special discount of 10 per cent to the co-operative societies in storage charge for all commodity. The storage in the ware housing centres in Vidisha District is given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI—22

Ware-housing in Vidisha District

(In Qnts.)

Year	Deposits in Ware housing Centres				
	Vidisha	Gulabganj	Ganj Basoda	Kurwai	Sironj
1966-67	48,782	Nil	53,915	7,708	Nil
1967-68	90,391	8,579	47,302	23,123	15,417
1968-69	1,04,769	20,557	52,399	17,106	20,802
1969-70	1,10,446	4,616	60,176	25,195	12,490
1970-71	81,796	—	49,793	681	—
1971-72	80,855	—	34,934	1,680	—
1972-73	1,16,001	—	66,470	4,627	—

Source : Madhya Pradesh Warehousing Corporation, Indore.

Weights and Measures

There were amazing differences in the local weights and measures in Vidisha District. The measures such as *mani* and *seer* have different significance in different places. Sometimes these measures varied in size from one village to another. The variations in weights and measures from village to village and from market to market were bound to prejudice the interests of sellers and to hamper trade and commerce. Indigenous weights and measures were in general use in Vidisha District till 1907, though in some towns, like Sironj and Ganj Basoda English weights and measures were well understood and employed to a certain extent.

Concerning the weights and measures used in former Gwalior State, of which Vidisha (Bhilsa) was a *Zila*, Capt. Luard gives the following account in the Gwalior State Gazetteer:—

“The weights used in the case of precious stones are made of metal usually brass or of earthenware. Besides stones, silk, thread, etc., are also weighed by this measure.

8 <i>Khaskhas</i>	=	1 <i>Chanwal</i>
8 <i>Chanwals</i>	=	1 <i>Ratti</i>
8 <i>Rattis</i>	=	1 <i>Masha</i>
12 <i>Mashas</i>	=	1 <i>Tola</i>
5 <i>Tola</i>	=	1 <i>Chhatak</i>

“For articles of bulk, weights of maunds and seers, etc., are made of iron and are flat, round or conical pieces. All heavy articles of bulk, such as grain, fuel, alkali, cotton, drug, rice, sugar, certain spices and sweetmeats, vegetables and fruits are weighed by these measures.

4	<i>Chhataks</i>	=	1	<i>Paua</i>
2	<i>Pauas</i>	=	1	<i>Adhsera</i> (1 lb)
2	<i>Adhseras</i> or 4 <i>Pauas</i>	=	1	<i>Seer</i>
5	<i>Seers</i>	=	1	<i>Panseri</i>
20	<i>Seers</i>	=	1	<i>Kham</i> , Maund of <i>Adhaun</i>
40	<i>Seers</i> or 8 <i>panseries</i>	=	1	Maund (<i>Pakka Md.</i>)
6	<i>Maunds</i>	=	1	<i>Mani</i>

“The measures used for capacity are made of brass copper and earthenware resembling a cup in shape. Bottles and half bottles are also used. Milk and wine are generally weighed in this way. Syrups and kerosene oil are also sold by these measures.

2	<i>Chhataks</i>	=	1	<i>Adhapai</i>
4	<i>Adhapais</i>	=	1	<i>Adha</i> or semi bottles
2	<i>Adhas</i>	=	1	<i>Bottle</i>
20	<i>Bottles</i>	=	1	<i>Canister</i> .

“Apothecaries use the following :—

6	<i>Rattis</i>	=	1	<i>Dag</i>
3	<i>Mashas</i>	=	1	<i>Dram</i>
4	<i>Mashas</i>	=	1	<i>Misqal</i>
14	<i>Mashas</i>	=	1	<i>Dam</i>

“Measures called *Paiya* and *Bariya*, made of wood and shaped like a tumbler are used in villages in selling grain, berries, etc.

1	<i>Barya</i>	=	2½	<i>Pauas</i> (i.e., ten <i>Chhataks</i>)
1	<i>Paiya</i>	=	6	<i>Seers</i>

“Yard measures are made of iron or bamboo, marked in *Girahs* and *Ungals*. Cloths, cotton and woollen substances are measured by yards.*

8	<i>Jau</i>	=	1	<i>Ungal</i>
4	<i>Ungals</i>	=	1	<i>Girah</i>
4	<i>Girahs</i>	=	1	<i>Balishta</i>
2	<i>Balishtas</i>	=	1	<i>Hath</i>
2	<i>Haths</i>	=	1	<i>Yard</i>
3	<i>Jau</i>	=	1	<i>Inch</i>
12	<i>Inches</i>	=	1	<i>Foot</i>
3	<i>Feet</i>	=	1	<i>Yard</i>

* Tailors have a yard 18 girhas long made of a cloth.

"Silken and cotton thread are often sold by weight. *Lachhas* (bundles) of woollen thread are sold by number. The dozen and *kori* or score are the units in ordinary use".¹ The following surface measures are chiefly used in measuring land; stone, timber and lime are similarly measured.²

3 <i>Gaz</i>	=	1 <i>Gatha</i>
20 <i>Gaz</i> or 60 yards	=	1 <i>Jarih</i> (chain)

"In measuring timber, the following table is used:—

4 <i>Sut</i>	=	1 <i>Pan</i>
4 <i>Pans</i>	=	1 <i>Tassu</i>
12 <i>Tassus</i>	=	1 <i>Yard</i>

"In measuring surface, the following measures are used :—

20 <i>Anwansi</i>	=	1 <i>Kachwansi</i>
20 <i>Kachwansi</i>	=	1 <i>Biswansi</i>
20 <i>Biswansi</i>	=	1 <i>Biswa</i>
20 <i>Biswas</i>	=	1 <i>Bigha</i>
1,939 <i>Bighas</i>	=	1 <i>Acre</i>

"Measures of time, both the native and European reckoning of time is followed. In the former, time is registered by *gharis* by means of the water-clock. A brass vessel called a *katori* pierced with a small hole is placed on water in a pan. The *katori* and the hole are in such proportion that it takes exactly a hour or the *ghari* to fill and sink.

"Native calculations :—

60 <i>Bipals</i>	=	1 <i>Pal</i>
60 <i>Pals</i>	=	1 <i>Gharl</i>
2½ <i>Gharis</i>	=	1 <i>Hour</i>
2½ <i>Gharis</i> or 3 hours	=	1 <i>Pahar</i>
7 <i>Pahars</i>	=	1 <i>Day and night</i>
2 <i>Days</i>	=	1 <i>Week (Athwara)</i>
4 <i>Athwaras</i> or 15 days	=	1 <i>Pakhwara, either sudi or badi</i>
8 <i>Athwaras</i> or 30 days or 2 <i>Pakhwaras</i>	=	1 <i>Mas (month)</i>
12 <i>Mas (Month)</i>	=	1 <i>Baras (year)</i>
13 <i>Mas (month)</i>	=	1 <i>Laun-ka-baras (leap year)</i>
100 <i>Baras (year)</i>	=	1 <i>Shatak (century).</i>

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, pp. 78-79.

2. Square feet are used in measuring in some of the *parganas*.

"The native year followed is the Vikrama Samvat, which commences generally on Ist Kartik sudi (October-November), this being also the business year. Deccanis, however, commence it on first *Chait sudi* (March-April).

"Muhammadans commence their year on Ist Muharram. The State official year commences on July Ist and follows the English months."¹

Under the orders of the former Gwalior State the use of weights and measures which are not made in the State Government Workshops was made a cognizable offence. It was the statutory function of the Mandi committee to enforce the use of the standard weights and measures in the markets. The commerce Inspectors also used to check the weights whenever they went on tour.²

During the time of Shahjahan (1627-1659) a new system of weights and measures was adopted at Sironj. Shahjahanai *Gaz* was two *girah* more in length than the English yard. Seer was of 98 *tolas*. These *seer* and *gaz* were popular in Sironj till 1950 and were known as *pucca seer* and *pucca gaz*.³

Adoption of All India Standard

With a view to introducing a uniform system of weights and measures in the country, the Government of India enacted the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, and the State Government enacted the Madhya Pradesh Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1959. The provisions of the Act, so far as unit of mass was concerned, were introduced in this district for the first time from 1959, with a year's transitional period in which the old weights could also be used along with the new metric weights. The use of metric weights was later made compulsory, in this area from Ist October, 1960. Similarly, the provisions of the Act, so far as the unit of capacity measures and length measures are concerned, were introduced, respectively, from Ist May, 1961 and Ist October, 1961, and their use was made compulsory from Ist May, 1962 and Ist October, 1962, respectively, after one year's transitional period for each.

Thus the old Weights and Measures have now been replaced in the District by the metric weights, capacity measures and length measures and there is a new uniform system of weights and measures throughout the District.

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, pp. 79-80.

2. *ibid*.

3. G. S. Bhargava, *op. cit.*, p. 38.

CHAPTER VII COMMUNICATIONS

Old Time Routes

In the ancient period, the District lay on the important road link connecting Northern India with Southern India and the Magadha empire with part of Surparaka. The earliest Buddhist Literature records the trade route of Paithana in the Deccan to Sravasthi,¹ passing through the District. In the Muslim period, the Agra-Burhanpur road, built by Sher Shah (1540-54) passed through the District. This road fell into four sections, viz., Handia to Sironj, Sironj to Narwar, Narwar to Gwalior and Gwalior to Agra. The roadsides were full of trees and *sarais*. The *sarais* on the roads, besides being rest-houses for the travellers, were used as posts for carrying news and messages also.

The Agra-Bombay road, constructed about the year 1840 during the British period was originally a military road. This road traversed the west of the District. It provided a base for linking the western portion of the District upto Sironj. In 1886 all Government roads in the former Gwalior State area were made over to the Gwalior Durbar by the British Government. After this the roads were generally constructed to connect the National routes or railway stations.

The first railway line in the District was opened in 1899. The opening of the railway led to the construction of short roads to feed the railway system. In the year 1905, the District was traversed by the midland section of the Great Indian Peninsula railway with stations at Bhilsa, Sumer, Gulabganj, Pabai-Basoda, Kulhar and Bareth.

By this time the only metalled roads were two short feeder roads from Bareth station to Udayapura (6.4 km.) and Kulhar station to Pathari near Baro (23 km.). An unmetalled high road was in existence from Bhilsa to Gyaraspur. Other roads were Bhilsa to Betwa (6.4 km.) and Basoda to Basoda Railway station (1.6 km.).

The transport and communication system was in very poor condition in the District during the pre-Independence period. Road construction activities gained momentum only during the Plan period, particularly from Second Five Year Plan.

Post Independence Period

At the time of creation of New Madhya Pradesh in 1956, the

1. Rhys Davis, *Buddhist India*, p. 103.

District was served by the following roads.

1. Vidisha to Ashoknagar. 2. Vidisha to Shamshabad. 3. Vidisha to Teonda-Basoda. 4. Basoda to Sironj-Lateri. 5. Kurwai to Sironj. 6. Kurwai to Bamora. 7. Kurwai to Kethora. 8. Kulhar to Pathari. 9. Bareth to Udaipur. 10. Vidisha to Bhopal (via Raisen).

Vidisha city is connected directly with roads to all important tahsil places and other important places in the District such as Gyaraspur, Shamshabad and Teonda.

The adjoining district headquarters like Guna, Sagar, Raisen, Sehore, and State Capital Bhopal are also connected with Vidisha. At the end of Second Five Year Plan (1961) the total length of roads in the District was 520.83 km. The District is traversed by Bhopal-Bina Section on Bombay-Delhi main line of Central Railway.

Road Transport

Maintenance of the existing roads and their conversion into metalled roads was undertaken during the Third Five Year Plan and annual Plan periods.

By the end of September 1968, there were 196.4 km. of State highways, 273.1 km. of major District roads and 61.0 km. of other District roads in the District. The State highway and major District roads were all-weather pucca roads, except 37 km. of major District roads. The Vidisha-Pachhar Road (97.8 km.) and Basoda-Sironj Road, (3.2 km.) were black topped roads, while others were water bound macadam.

By the end of 1968, with a total road length of 530.43 km. the average population (1961) served by one km. of road was 929 persons. It, however, speaks of poor road conditions in the District. The important road links and their length in District, as in 1968, were as follows.

<i>Name of Road</i>	<i>Length (km.) in the District</i>
1. Vidisha-Sanchi.	4.00
2. Vidisha-Berasia.	24.2
3. Vidisha-Ahmadpur.	20.5
4. Vidisha-Ashoknagar.	72.4
5. Kararia-Shamshabad.	39.2
6. Sironj-Berasia. via-Shamshabad.	50.00
7. Taroli-Bagrod.	8.00
8. Kurwai-Kethora.	7.00
9. Kurwai-Bina.	12.00
10. Kulhar-Pathari.	17.7
11. Bhorasa-Malhargarh.	20.9

12.	Basoda-Sironj.	16.00
13.	Basoda-Teonda.	30.00
14.	Kurwai-Sironj.	39.8
15.	Sironj-Maksoodangarh.	45.9
16.	Leteri-Aron.	20.9
17.	Vidisha-Ashoknagar.	24.9
18.	Sironj-Aron.	30.8
19.	Basoda-Sironj.	26.6

Recent Development

During the period (1966-67 to 1970-71) work on a total of 195.6 km. of roads was undertaken in the District, out of which 63.8 km. including 13 km. of Malgarh-Bhonrasa Road, Bina-Kurwai Road and Sironj-Aron Road were C. R. F. works. The total expenditure incurred on the construction of new roads was Rs. 25.61 lakhs against total estimated cost of Rs. 51.16 lakhs. In addition a total of 23.25 km. of roads were upgraded at a cost of Rs. 6.41 lakhs. The construction works taken up during the period include rest-houses, culverts, bridges, fixation of kilometre-stones, traffic signals, minor repairs and accessory work. Most of the important bridges and culverts on Bina-Kurwai Road, Kurwai-Shamshabad Road and Kurwai-Bamora Road, Vidisha-Teonda Road, and such others were in progress. The following table gives total road length in Vidisha District.

Table No. VII-1

Total Road Length

Year/Tahsil	Metalled Roads			Unmetalled Roads		
	P. W. D. Roads	Municipal Roads	Total	P. W. D. Roads	Municipal Roads	Total
1971-72	552.12	...	552.12	92.12	...	92.12
1972-73	538.70	...	538.70	126.62	...	126.62
1973-74	560.46	21.22	581.68	138.52	52.96	191.48
Vidisha	144.33	...	144.33	38.20	...	38.20
Basoda	201.17	20.27	221.44	30.80	50.00	80.80
Kurwai	97.31	...	97.31	18.52	2.00	20.52
Sironj	84.28	0.95	85.23	20.40	0.96	21.36
Leteri	33.37	...	33.37	30.60	...	30.60

Source : E. E., P. W. D. (B&R) & C. M. O.

Municipal Roads

During the year 1971-72 the total length of roads maintained by the Municipal Committee, Vidisha was 44.20 km. of which 10.10 km. was metalled, 5.6 km. unmetalled and 20.50 km. water bound macadam (surfaced).

Vehicles and Conveyance

All types of vehicles and conveyance driven by beasts of burden such as bullock-carts, etc., as well as cycles and automobiles ply in the District. Bullock-cart is still the main conveyance of the agriculturist to carry their goods to *mandis*. Tractor trolleys are also being used recently for transportation. Truck facilities for transporting goods within the District and outside are also available.

Public Transport

The public transport system was started in the District as late as in 1947 when Gwalior North India Road Transport Company started its bus service. Later, it was taken over by the former Gwalior State and was renamed as Gwalior Central India Transport Company. This Company was amalgamated with Madhya Bharat Roadways and consequently merged into the Madhya Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation. This company was largely responsible for the road transportation in the District, though private bus services were also available on some routes. With the nationalisation of road transportation, most of the buses in the District are run by the M. P. State Road Transport Corporation. All the tahsil places and important places in the District are being served by public transport scheme. The District headquarter Vidisha and towns of Basoda and Sironj are well connected by bus services with the adjoining districts and the State capital, Bhopal.

Railways

Vidisha is on Bhopal-Bina line of the Central Railway at a distance of 53 kilometres from Bhopal. About 76 kilometres of the District are served by rail line on which Vidisha, Sumer, Gulabganj, Pabai, Ganj-Basoda, Bareth and Kurwai-Kethora stations are located. All the trains including mail and express halt at Vidisha, while express trains stop at Ganj-Basoda. Tahsil headquarters Sironj and Lateri are approachable from Ganj-Basoda, while Kurwai can be reached from Kurwai Kethora and Mandi Bamora (Sagar district) railway stations.

The railway stations in the District gradually developed into commercial and trading centres of the District, important among them being Vidisha, Ganj Basoda and Gulabganj. These places are good marketing *mandis* of the District. The details of trading activities of these places have been dealt in Chapter VI.

There is no air strip in the District. The nearest aerodrome is at Bhopal.

Postal System

Until 1885 no regular postal system existed in the District and letters were carried by private messengers or in case of official correspondence by the State runners and sowars. In 1885 a Postal Agreement was entered into with the British Government. This was modified by an additional Agreement in 1888. By these agreements the mutual exchange of correspondence, parcels and money orders, registered, insured and value-payable articles between the Imperial post offices and post-offices in former Gwalior territory was arranged. Imperial postage-stamps surcharged with the words 'Gwalior State' and embossed envelopes and post-cards, surcharged with these words and the Gwalior arms, were adopted for use in the State. The additional agreement arranged for the free carriage of postal service correspondence and the receipt of cost by the State from the Imperial Post offices in the State. The first telegraph line in Gwalior State was opened in 1853 along the Agra-Bombay road. The telephone line passed through the western portion of Vidisha District linking Sironj. All these telegraph offices were Imperial telegraph offices.

Vidisha was provided with an Imperial post and telegraph (combined) office in 1885. Other important places were provided only with post-offices by the Gwalior State Government. The Imperial post-offices were opened at the railway stations of Bhilsa, Basoda and Kulhar, and State offices at Bhilsa, Ahmadpur, Basoda, Gyaraspur, Khari, Nateran, Shamshabad and Teonda. Post offices also existed in important places of former States like Kurwai, Mahammadgarh, Sironj and Lateri in addition to a few Imperial telegraph offices. After the formation of Madhya Bharat all the State run post, telegraph and public-call offices were amalgamated into the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department. By the year 1961 all the five tahsil places had telegraph facilities. There was a telephone exchange at Vidisha. Public Call Offices were located at Lateri and Sironj, while 8 Branch Offices under Basoda, 3 Branch Post Offices under Piklon, 22 Branch Post Offices under Vidisha and 3 Branch Post Offices under Vidisha Mandi were combined Sub-offices. By the end of 1968, in addition, there was a Telegraph office at Mahoti combined with the Branch Post Office. The following table shows the details of present postal system in the District.

Table No. VII-2
Posts & Telegraphs

Year/Tahsil	Post Office				Telegraph Office	Telephone exchange	Public call Office	No. of Radio licences
	I & II Class	III Class	Sub-Offices	Branches				
1971	2	6	10	65	8	7	7	1619
1972	2	6	10	67	8	7	7	1797
1973	2	6	10	69	8	7	7	2230
1 Vidisha	1	3	4	21	3	3	3	979
2 Basoda	—	3	3	24	2	1	1	471
3 Kurwai	1	—	1	6	1	1	1	318
4 Sironj	—	—	1	13	1	1	1	377
5 Lateri	—	—	1	5	1	1	1	85

Source : Superintendent, Post-Offices, Sagar.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The miscellaneous occupations include, on the one hand, administrative and learned professions and on the other, persons providing various domestic services. Census 1961 enumerated 2,31,250 or 47.3 per cent of the total population as workers. As the scope of this chapter is largely confined to the occupations falling in the category of "other services" it may be inferred that 23,712 or 10 per cent of the workers belonging to it at this census covered occupations, miscellaneous in nature. Vidisha and Basoda tahsils among themselves shared about two third of the working force in this category. In 1971 Census, the 'other services', due more to classificational changes, claimed 13,705 persons out of a total working force of 226,749. The details as per occupational classification given below, however, pertain to 1961 Census.

Public Administration

Occupations connected with public administration are vital to a smooth running of all the civic activities in the District. Administrative and executive officials working at various levels in the different branches of the District set-up totalled 742 including 11 females, out of whom 300 including 2 females were working in the urban sector according to Census 1961. They included workers from the lowest rung of the administrative ladder to the highest working under the State and Central Government as well as quasi-Government organisations. Officials under the Central Government in the District including defence employees numbered 9, of whom none was a woman, and 6 were posted in the urban sector. Administrative and executive officials working under the State Government were 127 in all, with no women, and 98 of them in the urban areas.

Besides the above two categories, officials working with the Local Self-Government organisations, totalled 20 and those under the quasi-government organisations 15, with their urban component of 19 and 15, respectively, while none of them was a woman. The following Table shows the number of employees of all categories, in the four municipalities in the District during the year 1967-68.

Table No. VIII-1
Category-wise strength of Municipal Employees

	Vidisha	Ganj-Basoda	Kurwai	Sironj
Officers (C.M.O.)	1	1	1	1
Officers (Ministerial)	3	4	—	7
Establishment	229	34	7	68
Revenue Department	—	22	9	32
Sanitary Department	—	63	15	—
Workshop Department	—	14	—	1
Overseers/Sub-overseers	2	—	—	1
Doctors/Compounders/Vaidyas, etc.	2	—	—	—

The fifth category in the executive line was that of village officials who, totalling 570 with only 10 females, formed the base of village administration. They were largely scattered over the villages as only 161 including one female were in the urban area.

Clerical and Related Workers

Clerical and related workers are essential to the administrative machinery and hence may usefully be discussed here. Among various such workers connected with official work, stenographers and typists numbered 25, book-keepers etc. 358, cashiers 29, ticket sellers 5, office machine operators 1 and clerical and unskilled office workers 638 and 666, respectively. In all categories, female participation was almost nil.

This marked absence or lack of females suggests a rural oriented social structure which is in conformity with the general pattern in the rest of the country. Social attitude continues to be averse to service by women, particularly of the middle-class families, and more so in the administrative, executive or the like jobs. This statement is substantiated in the case of Vidisha, as the services employing almost completely a local element in their employment, namely, the local self and quasi-government services also lack female employees. Even clerical and related workers have only a negligible female participation. Thus, it is only in the industrially and commercially advanced urban areas that the educated middle class women come out to work, and that is, perhaps, because of the increasing economic pressure. But in the neighbouring districts of Sehore and Raisen, female participation in general was comparatively more pronounced, particularly in the case of the latter.

Amenities to Government Employees

Special amenities available to these public servants and to any of the public employees' organisations in the District, are similar to those existing

all over the State. These include the provision of medical reimbursement, pension at retirement, family-pension on death, gratuity and general provident fund and various kinds of leaves, etc. Government accommodation is also made available to its employees, subject to its availability.

Learned Professions

Teachers

After the public administration come the occupations which may be termed as the category of learned professions. Teachers being instrumental in the spread of education of all kind are one of the most important of these learned professions. The total number of teachers of various grades in the District was 1,630 with 188 women teachers among them in 1961. The urban component with 721 (126 females) was less than half, and indicated a well spread out base in the educational plan of the District. A further split in the figures, despite the apparent fact of still greater educational requirements of a much larger rural sector, clearly goes to show a balanced distribution of the existing educational facilities. Thus, while the District had 50 college level teachers employed in the two towns of Vidisha and Basoda having Colleges in 1961, there were 114 secondary school level teachers with as many as 100 of them in the urban sector. It also had 1,270 middle and primary school teachers of whom as many as 792 were posted in the rural areas of the District. By the year 1969-70, the number of teachers was 9 in pre-primary schools, 1,224 in primary schools, 379 in middle schools, 192 in higher secondary schools and 35 in colleges. Apart from these, 47 teachers in Engineering College and 23 (in 1967-68) teachers in Polytechnic were also employed.

Doctors

Besides teachers, doctors who were covered under the head 'Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists' in the 1961 census records of the District were also evenly distributed over the rural and urban sectors. Out of 119 (3 females) such physicians, etc., 60 (2 females) were working in the urban sector. Thus as in the case of education, here also rural sector in all had a greater proportion of physicians than the urban sector.

Separately, however, all the 24 allopathic physicians and surgeons and 2 dentists of the District at this Census were located in the urban areas. Besides, there were as many as 76 ayurvedic and 5 homoeopathic physicians of whom only 21 of the former and 3 of the latter were in the urban sector.

Other related occupations in the field of medicine were those of nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians who totalled 272 (142 females) with an urban component of 102 (28 females). Of these the nurses and midwives or health visitors, respectively numbered 26, and 109, all

women, with 17 of the former and 8 of the latter placed in the urban sector. Greater number of midwives in rural sector indicates the useful and much needed service rendered by them in the villages where modern facilities, inculcating that of a lady doctor, are lacking.

Legal Services

Jurists, providing legal services in the District, are centred wholly in the urban areas where, naturally, is situated the seat of law courts. All jurists in the District, who numbered 98, consisted of 6 judges and magistrates, 69 legal practitioners and advisers (lawyers) and 23 legal technicians (petition-writers, etc.). None of these was a woman and in this case also the same reasons hold good which have been observed earlier in relation to public administration.

Other Scientific and Technical Personnel (including Engineers)

Similarly, learned professions connected with modern technological advancement are also almost wholly centred in the urban area with a very small number of persons pursuing them in the rural sector. Here also, as expected, female participation is negligible. Thus, only chemists, physicists and geologists category had two females out of a total of 9 persons, of whom as many as 8 persons were working in the urban area. Then there were 33 biologists, veterinarians and agronomists in the District of whom 25 worked in the urban sector, none of whom was a female. Architects, engineers and surveyors numbered most with 62 persons, all of whom were in the urban sector. Engineers were relatively in larger proportion because both the Central and the State Government have, particularly after Independence, laid great emphasis on development projects on all possible fronts. Constructional activity on the part of the State Government has also increased manifold, requiring a larger staff of engineers, etc., in the District unit of Public Works Department. In addition to these, there were 10 persons working in the category of draughtsman and science and engineering technicians.

Artists, Writers and Social Scientists

Other workers related to professional or artistic skill included social scientists like economists, statisticians, etc., and others like journalists, musicians, dancers etc. The social scientists totalled 51, with 4 females, of whom 49 were in the urban sector. As is apparent, social enlightenment and technological advancement is essentially a phenomenon originating from and centring around the urban areas, which fact is amply reflected in the above figures. The artists, writers and related workers form yet another group of such workers, and they totalled 445 with 77 females of whom 198 with 38 females were in the urban sector. The largest of them being musicians and related workers numbering 336 in the District, dwarfed others in the category. Then came dancers and related workers numbering 72 in all followed by 26 sculptors and modellers all of whom were located in the

rural sector. Editors, journalists and related workers consisted of only 2 persons, both of whom were males working in the urban sector.

Domestic and Personal Services

So far we have discussed occupations related to public administration and learned professions. It is now our object to delineate the occupations connected with domestic and personal services. The tailors, washermen, barbers, cooks, etc., are some of the important personnel engaged in providing for the essential domestic requirements of the local population.

Tailors and Cutters

There were 1,439 persons (241 females) in the category of tailors, cutters furriers and related workers, of whom 597 with 117 female workers were in the urban sector. Among these, 5 workers (3 females) were upholsterers with 4 of them in the urban sector. The figures indicate that the tailors are distributed all over the District according to the need of the population. Although the rural tailors are seen to be somewhat larger in number, they are, in effect, not so keeping in view the proportionately much higher rural population. Perhaps this may reflect indifference to dress.

Leather Workers and Blacksmiths

There were 1,276 leather-cutters, lasters, sewers, etc., (180 females) engaged in shoe-making and other connected jobs. Of these, 492 with 74 females were in the urban sector. The total number of blacksmiths, hammer-smiths and forgers was 337 with 49 females and 84 out of them (4 females) were in the urban sector.

In occupations like these, work by women is not a social taboo. A much smaller number, however, is to be found because the nature of these works does not allow a greater participation by them.

Carpenters

The same argument applies to the case of carpenters, joiners, and cabinet-makers, etc. Out of a total of 1,826 such workers only 42 were females. As villagers largely need a carpenter's service, mainly in connection with the pursuance of their agricultural operations, only 279 of the carpenters (2 females) plied their occupation in the urban sector. All these jobs are pursued conventionally by a particular sections of the population since long past. Persons from other sections of society have also entered these professions in the urban areas, or where the work is carried on a comparatively larger scale.

Barbers and Hairdressers

Another class of workers noted for the absence of female participation due to its peculiar nature is that of barbers and hair-dressers, who numbered 1,056 in all with 230 in the urban sector.

Launderers and Dry-Cleaners

In the occupations followed by certain castes, there are also pursuits where women not only are sufficient in number but also actually outnumber the male workers. It is not a matter of surprise as work by women among them, is freely allowed and liberally practised. Thus there were 832 workers in the launderers, dry-cleaners and dressers' category, mostly known as *dhobis* with as many as 456 females. Of these 112 with 74 females were in the urban sector.

Sweepers

Lastly, among such occupations which are followed mostly by a particular caste comes the sweepers' class. There were 1,580 cleaners, sweepers and watermen in the District, of whom as many as 807 were females. It was in the urban sector where, of the 462 such workers, females, numbering 202 were less than male workers.

House-Keepers, Cooks

Among the classes that provide for the domestic requirements of the local population, a very important one is that of domestic servants. The District had in all 66 house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers of whom, as usual with this class, a substantially large number with 226 was formed of maid-servants and other types of female house-servants. Majority of these, i. e., 269 servants with 115 females were serving in the urban area.

Waiters, Bar-tenders and related workers

The scope for this vocation seems to be very limited in rural oriented economy of the District since only 4 persons were recorded under this occupation. But the existence of small owner-run units at bus or railway terminals and important marketing centres which are necessary adjunct to the growing economy, cannot be denied.

Retailers

As for the others, retail trade though rightly belonging to an independent major sector of trade and industry may also enter the field of miscellaneous occupations, as it contains, within its fold, quite a number of vocations which are miscellaneous in the sense that they are unconnected with each other and are limited and narrow in their scope of activities. Out of the 5,011 working proprietors in the District 4,706 went to retail trade and naturally, due to somewhat

commercial character of this vocation, female participation was quite low (562). About 50 per cent urban component of the retailers numbering 2,266 with 156 female participants, shows that they cater to the daily needs of about 13.14 per cent of the District population, while the rest cater for 86.86 per cent of rural population, spread over 7,294.45 sq. km. area.

Then another section of retail trade consisted of still smaller units comprising hawkers, pedlars and street vendors who numbered 347 in all (39 females) and with only 3 of them in rural sector showing its predominance in the urban areas.

Since 1961, the District economy has witnessed the execution of various plans for the overall development of the District. These have also created more potentialities of employment in secondary and tertiary sectors of economy. To some extent these are reflected in the "Employment Market" reports. They classify them in accordance with the Standard Industrial Classification, contrary to the Occupational Classification of Census 1961 hitherto followed. Though the later figures given in the following table are not comparable, it will give a broad picture of some of the occupations clubbed together under "Services Division" of the aforesaid Classification.

Table No. VIII-2
Categorywise strength of services

Industry	No. of Employees in March				
	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
1. Public Service in Territorial Corps	5	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	--
2. Public Service in Police	658	658	658	656	656
3. Public Service in Offices of State Government	1479	1,624	1,600	1,586	1634
4. Local Bodies	549	635	631	586	509
5. Educational Service (Technical)	232	240	227	219	216
6. Educational Service (Non-Tech)	1625	2,222	2,286	2,306	2,474
7. Public Health & Medical Services	331	356	377	379	419
8. Other Services	483	436	280	255	255

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Pattern of Livelihood

During the period 1951-61 there were changes in the boundary of Vidisha District, resulting in a considerable increase of the population in 1961, as compared to 1951 Census. Consequently, the population of 'workers' as defined in the Census of 1961, was much more as compared to 1951¹, the figures being 231,250 and 113,203, respectively.

As might be expected, the most important means of livelihood in the District in the year 1951 as well as in 1961, was agriculture. Of the total workers in 1951 about 72.95 per cent were engaged in agriculture which increased to 75.22 per cent in 1961. Increase in the area as well as population of the District might also have contributed to this increase.

As against the increased dependence for livelihood on agriculture, production other than cultivation in 1961 showed a decline in the percentage of workers, i.e., 9.30 as compared to 10.47 for the same category in the year 1951. As a matter of fact, in absolute figures workers engaged in these activities increased in 1961 to 22,670 as against 11,859 in 1951. In spite of the total number of workers in 1961 having increased to nearly the double in 1951, there was a decline in the percentage of this total. But increase in absolute figure besides being due to enhanced area and population can also be attributed to the definition of 'workers' in 1961, as against 'Self-supporting' and 'Earning dependants, etc.', used in 1951. Moreover, there were also some changes in the content of the class production other than cultivation in 1961 from that in 1951.

In the 1961 Census, 'Construction' activity as a means of livelihood was treated separately, which in 1951, was included in 'Other services and miscellaneous sources'. The percentage of workers in 1961 in 'Construction' was 1.10, the absolute figure being only 2,540.

'Commerce' as a means of livelihood in 1951 engaged 3.96 per cent of the total workers; while the comparable class in 1961 Census 'Trade and Commerce' attracted 2.96 per cent of the total workers. The absolute figures for 1951 and 1961 were 4,485 and 6,884 respectively.

1. Figures regarding 'workers' for 1951 Census are worked out as per note on working force estimates. Appendix I of the Census of India, Paper No. 1 of 1962.

In 1951, 'Transport' as a means of livelihood engaged 858 workers only, forming 0.76 per cent of the total workers. In 1961 in a comparable economic classification of 'Transport, Storage and Communication', the total number of workers was 1,503 forming only 0.65 per cent of the total workers.

The percentage of workers in 'Other Services and Miscellaneous Sources' in 1951 was 11.76, which declined to 10.25 per cent in 1961 in a comparable class 'Other Services'. It has been already pointed out above that in 1951, construction activities formed part of 'Other Services', while in 1961, it was treated as a separate class. Thus, the decline in the percentage in 1961 could be attributed to the exclusion of construction activity from this class. In absolute figures, however, due to higher number of total workers in 1961 'Other Services' were the means of livelihood for 23,712 workers as compared to 13,413 in 1951.

The District is predominantly rural. This is evident from the fact that the highest percentage of agriculture in the rural area had been maintained in the proportion of total workers. Cultivation was the main occupation followed by agricultural labour. In the 1951 census this District had the largest number of agricultural labourers in the former Madhya Bharat. The position in the urban area is just the reverse, where the workers in services (mostly they are in Government service) followed by trade and commerce were little less than half the total workers.

There was as such no change in the pattern of livelihood for all these years. Moreover, there was no shift in economic activity from agriculture to other classes. Percentage of workers in all other occupations except agriculture actually declined in 1961, bringing out the fact that the brunt of supporting increasing population was largely borne by agriculture.

The total number of workers in the District in 1951 was 113,203, while non-workers numbered 1,79,828. This gives a proportion of 1.58 non-workers to a worker. In 1961, as against the total number of 2,31,250 workers, non-workers were 2,57,963 which gave a proportion of 1.11 non-workers to a worker. In this connection it may be observed generally that in more industrially developed tracts or regions, the proportion of non-worker to a worker is more than in the regions or tracts mainly agricultural. This is so because agriculture provides employment, though partial, to larger number including women and children. Comparing the ratios of non-workers to workers in rural and urban areas of the District substantiates this fact. Thus in the rural areas where agricultural activities predominate, the ratio of workers and non-workers was 1 to 1.03, while in urban areas, where activities other than agriculture are predominant the ratio was 1 to 1.87. Inferentially, therefore, as the ratio of

non-workers to a worker in the District declined to 1.11 to a worker in the year 1961 as compared to 1.58 to a worker in 1951, there was the preponderance of agricultural activity as a means of livelihood as compared to other economic activities.

In 1971 Census the proportion of economically active workers (226,749) to total population had on its face gone down from 47.3 per cent (in 1961) to 34.44 per cent. The percentage for male workers (192,928) stood as 55.16 per cent in 1971 as against 62.0 per cent in 1961. The percentage for female workers (33,821) however, had gone down from 30.7 per cent in 1961 to only 10.96 per cent in 1971. This decrease in the number of economically active workers both male and particularly female was perhaps due to change in the definition of 'worker' in 1971 Census. The details of working population by agricultural and other workers in 1971 Census were as under :

Table No. IX-1
Distribution of Working Population 1971

	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Other Workers
Total Persons	226,749	105,933 (46.72)	83,211 (36.70)	37,605 (16.58)
Male	192,928	102,327 (53.04)	56,570 (29.32)	34,031 (17.64)
Female	33,821	3,606 (10.66)	26,641 (76.77)	3,574 (10.57)

Note :—Percentages are given in the brackets.

Of the other workers the largest share with 13,905 persons was claimed by 'other services' followed by manufacturing in household and other than household industries together with 9,172 workers and trade and commerce with 7,774 workers in them. Among the remaining categories livestock, forestry and fisheries, etc., (2,212), construction (2,046), and transport, storage and communications (2,046) each claimed almost equal proportion of workers. Mining and quarrying which was counted as a separate category in this census had just 339 workers in it.

Prices

Economic activity in this District as in most of the other districts in the State, revolves round agriculture. It is in the production of *rabi* crops that the District predominates. Production of rice being nominal, quotation of

prices thereof were not available for the period when the District formed part of Gwalior State.

Pre-Independence Era

As a matter of fact data regarding prices for the period before 1950 were not only scanty but also suffered from the discontinuation in price series. The inter-War period wholesale prices for some of the cereals and oilseeds in the District from the year 1925-26 to 1930-31 were :

Table No. IX-2
Wholesale Foodgrains Prices

(Rs. per maund)

Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Linseed	Sesamum
1925-26	5-7-0	3-3-0	3-9-0	6-10-0	9-7-0
1926-27	5-8-0	—	3-15-0	6-3-0	11-1-0
1929-30	4-11-0	2-15-0	3-11-0	6-9-0	6-6-0
1930-31	3-5-0	1-4-0	2-10-0	4-6-0	5-2-0

General fall in the level of prices, in 1930-31 as compared to 1925-26 and 26-27 becomes obvious from the above table, which happens to be in keeping with the wider context of worldwide economic depression of the 'thirties of the current century.

In the two years preceding the Second World War the prices in the District were :

Table No. IX-3
Wholesale Foodgrains Prices

(In Rs. per maund)

Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Linseed	Sesamum
1936-37	3-4-0	1-13-0	2-11-0	4-10-0	5-6-0
1937-38	3-4-3	1-14-9	2-5-0	4-3-9	4-11-0

As compared to the prices in the year 1930-31, those in 1937-38 appear to have declined in case of wheat, gram, linseed and sesamum, while there was a slight increase in the price of *jowar*. This means declining trend in the commodity prices which had set in due to economic depression, continued right upto the outbreak of the Second World War, before rising again, this time to a much higher level. During War period, in spite of the scarcity of food grains due to increased demand for War purposes and low production there was no control on supplies and prices of foodgrain in Vidisha (Bhilsa) the District, which formed part of Gwalior State.

Post-Independence Period

It was, however, on the formation of the Union of Madhya Bharat in the year 1948 that various control orders were promulgated. At this time, because of the decontrol measures adopted by the Government of India and partial failure of crops, the prices had gone up considerably and wheat was being sold at $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee and *jowar* $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee. Shortage of foodgrains prevailing in the District was relieved to some extent by obtaining wheat and other cereals from abroad through the Food Department of the Government of India.

Under the provisions of the various orders, the Government started procuring kharif crop on levy basis from January, 1949. The overseas wheat which was sold at 2 seers a rupee was ordered to be sold at $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers from January 1949. Thus, procurement and distribution of foodgrains at controlled prices, which was non-existent during Second World War period, was introduced.

First Plan Period

During the First Five Year Plan period stress was laid on the production of foodgrains. During this Plan period the indices (with 1939 as base) of wholesale prices in Madhya Bharat were :-

Table No. IX-4
Foodgrains Price Indices

Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum
1951	439.4	429.2	423.5	586.6
1952	518.4	404.3	506.9	458.1
1953	519.0	405.2	509.7	542.9
1954	453.7	250.8	295.4	409.7
1955	411.8	221.7	199.7	302.7

These indices indicate that with the exception of sesamum, prices of wheat, jowar and gram were rising upto 1953 during the Plan period, and the last two years of the First Plan witnessed considerable decline in the prices of all commodities. During the First Five Year Plan period, favourable climatic and monsoon conditions helped in obtaining larger agricultural produce. This helped in bringing down price level in the last two years of the Plan period as compared to the earlier years. These general conditions obtaining in the Madhya Bharat region as a whole might be taken as representative of Vidisha District as well.

Second Plan Period

For four years of the Second Plan period (1957-58 to 1960-61) wholesale prices of important cereals, gram and oilseeds prevailing in the District were as under :

Table No. IX-5

Foodgrains Prices

(In Rs. per maund)				
Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum
1957-58	12.57	8.00	10.40	29.00
1958-59	14.94	14.50	15.40	20.00
1959-60	11.84	12.40	11.30	27.35
1960-61	12.85	10.35	13.15	32.36

During the Second Plan period, prices of foodgrains and oilseeds were rising and falling from year to year. The prices of all the four commodities in the last year of the Plan were higher than those of the Second year of the Plan, i.e., 1957-58, the rise being the highest in case of oilseed, (i.e., sesamum) and least in case of wheat. This price situation was unlike the one obtaining during the First Five Year Plan period and indicated a rising trend.

Third Plan Period and Later

During the Third Five Year Plan period the wholesale prices of the foodgrains in the District were :-

Table No. IX-6
Foodgrains Prices

Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum
				(In Rs. per Maund)
1961-62	14.70	10.05	11.50	31.25
				(In Rs. per quintal)
1962-63	32.44	28.68	31.48	79.64
1963-64	41.62	28.00	46.56	84.00
1964-65	46.69	34.37	40.44	110.88
1965-66	54.50	39.95	52.07	N.A.

From the above Table it appears that in the first year of the Third Plan, except for slight increase in the price of wheat, the prices of other commodities were lower than those prevailing in the last year of the Second Plan. This increase in the price of wheat might be attributed to the local market condition, i.e., demand being generally higher than the supply. The prices of sesamum which had been vascillating more from year to year and all other foodgrain prices rose still higher by the end of the Third Plan. The prices of sesamum increased considerably since 1962-63. During the Annual Plan period (1966-69), the prices of the above commodities in the District were at a high level, in keeping with the general price trend in the country, as shown in the Table below :

Table No. IX-7
Foodgrains Prices

				(In Rs. Per quintal)
Year	Wheat	Jowar	Gram	Sesamum
1966-67	62.53	41.94	56.71	N.A.
1967-68	74.26	46.54	69.71	N.A.
1968-69	73.77	46.13	73.63	N.A.

The years 1965-66 and 1966-67 were very difficult because of the country-wide drought conditions. Production of foodgrains was severely affected

resulting in steep rise in price thereof. Effects of these two drought years on price continued even in 1967-68, though in this year because of favourable monsoons, foodgrains production improved. The rise in prices of foodgrains was general and continuous from 1965-66 to 1967-68. In the year 1968-69 the agricultural production showed further improvement but there was only a slight decrease in the prices of wheat and *jowar* in the District. Price of gram, however, increased by more than Rs. 3 per quintal which might be attributed to the policy of the State Government in respect of export thereof outside the State. Thus, in spite of the increase in production, the rising price level of foodgrains in the District, due to inflationary trends everywhere, remained in the later years too.

Wages

The wage-rates in the District for the skilled and unskilled workers, when it formed part of Gwalior State, were comparable with those obtaining in British India. Thus, at the end of the First World War, i.e., in the year 1918-19 a coolie in the District got annas 5 per day. The wage-rates for masons and carpenters varied from annas 8 to 14 per day, while for blacksmiths the rate varied from annas 8 to 12 per day. For the subsequent few years the prevailing rates of wages in the District were:-

Table No. IX-8

Average Daily Wages

(In Rs. per day)

Year	Coolie	Mason	Smith	Carpenter
1919-20	0-7-0	0-12-0	0-14-0	0-14-0
1920-21	0-8-0	0-12-0	0-12-0	0-12-0
1921-22	0-6-0	0-12-0	0-12-0	0-12-0
1922-23	0-7-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0

It may be found from the above figures, that while wage-rates for coolies, i.e., unskilled labour, changed from year to year, the wage rates for skilled workers did not. This can be explained from the fact that demand for unskilled labour is variable, in the sense that, if unskilled labourer refuses to offer his services at a certain wage, his services can be substituted easily by other labourer or even by self-help. This is not possible in case of skilled workers like carpenter, mason, etc., and hence changes in the wage-rates of skilled workers are not frequent.

During the trade depression of the 'thirties, i.e., in 1933-34, the wage-rates of skilled workers had declined from the level of Re. 1 per day of the year 1922-23 to annas 12 per day. The wage-rate for coolie in the year was 0-5-6 per day, as against annas 7 per day in the year 1922-23.

In the year 1940, which was the second year of the Second World War period, the wage-rates for coolie in Vidisha District were from annas 4 to 7 per day. For skilled workers like blacksmith, carpenter, artisan, etc., the uniform wage-rate from annas 8 to Re. 1 was quoted. This shows that in the initial years of the Second World War, there was no particular impact of War conditions on the wage-rates.

Post-Independence Period

The wage structure of rural skilled and unskilled labourers had not changed much till the Independence era. In post-Independence period, to redress the grievances of this class, the Minimum wages Act, 1948 was enacted. During the Second Five Year Plan the wage-rates of "other Agricultural labourer," i. e. unskilled worker in rural areas was Re. 1 per day¹ in 1957 and 1958. In the years 1959 and 1960, the wage-rate had increased to Rs. 1.50 per day but in 1961 the wage-rate had again receded to Re. 1. With the year 1957-58 as a base year, the index number of agricultural wages in Vidisha District, which comes under the Wheat Zone of the State, was 125, 116 and 132 in the year 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61, respectively. This indicates the rising trend of rural wage-rates.

During the Third Five Year Plan and Annual Plan period, the rates of wages in the District for skilled and unskilled rural workers were as under :

Table No. IX-9

Wages

Year ¹	(Rs. per day)		
	Other Agricultural Labourer	Carpenter	Blacksmith
1961-62	2.00	5.00	5.00
1962-63	2.25	4.50	4.50
1963-64	1.75	4.50	4.50
1964-65	1.38	4.00	4.75
1965-66	1.75	4.00	4.50
1966-67	2.50	5.00	5.00
1967-68	2.50	5.50	5.50
1968-69	N.A.	5.50	5.50

1. In the month of June.

It appears that the year 1968-69 saw further advancement in the rate of wages for the skilled workers over the highest wage-rate that they were getting in the first year of the Third Plan. Similarly, "Other agricultural labourers" also began to earn more than the highest that they earned in the first year of the Third Plan. The rates had gone further up by 1970-71 when carpenter and blacksmith both, on an average, received over Rs. 5.80 per day. Thus, these figures confirm the rising trend in wage rates together with rising prices.

Standard of Living

Vidisha District has been endowed with rich soils of the Malwa belt and is the centre of trade for its quality gram and wheat. This has given better economic deal to both the agricultural and the business community of this area. Although the majority of the people lead a simple frugal way of life, yet the District bears a look of agricultural prosperity. All this does not, however, mean a high standard of living but only that, the economic condition is some what better in a relative sense. The industrial potential of the District has also been exploited to some extent and the business and industrial sector largely forms the higher income bracket of the District. The middle income groups like most of the service class, or small traders are usually hard up in the face of rising prices.

In the agricultural sector farmers with larger agricultural holdings have average to good financial returns, while a large number of cultivators have only moderate economic standards. There were no specific data regarding income-expenditure pattern of any of the classes, referred to above, in the District. The only statistical information which could be of use was in regard to agricultural labour families collected under the Agriculture Labour Inquiry of the early fifties when this District—in a much smaller size under the name of Bhilsa—formed part of the former Madhya Bharat State. As the Zone II of this State under the Labour Inquiry comprised ten districts in all, together with the former Bhilsa District, the results could be applied only in a very general sense to this area. In average agricultural labour family in this Zone earned on an average Rs. 356 annually and spent Rs. 331. Of this, 81.3 per cent was spent on food, 8.8 per cent on clothing and foot-wear; 1.5 per cent on fuel and lighting; 0.2 per cent on house rent and repairs and 8.2 per cent on services and miscellaneous. As this expenditure consisted of only the unavoidable necessities with food claiming most of it, the small surplus shown was only a name-sake and at least the labour classes seemed to have had little better than a mere sustenance living even in this large fertile tract.

General Level of Employment

As already described agricultural activities are the main source of employment in the District. Agriculture provides seasonal employment and an alternative avenue of employment out of the season though only to a very small extent was provided by the *bidi* industry in the District. This industry which had engaged a nominal 52 workers in 1966, provided employment to 567 by the year 1973. Generally it draws its labour force from agriculture by offering employment on contract basis for manufacture of *bidis* to the workers in their cottages. Such an employment enables the under-employed, or unemployed workers in agriculture to supplement their incomes.

In the year 1968, there were seven factories in the whole of the District registered under the Factories Act, one of which was a water supply station, which means that factories as such were only six. These factories were, one flour mill, one *dal* mill, one edible oil manufacturing establishment, one pulp, paper and paper Board mill, one metal container manufacturing establishment and one transport equipment manufacturing establishment, the last of which actually was a repairing workshop. All these six factory establishments provided employment to 291 workers daily on an average, in the year 1968. This position registered factory establishments in the District also improved in the later years and reflected the general employment position in industries in the District.

The Employment Market Report for the period ending 31st March, 1970, mentioned that there was no important change in the employment situation in the District as the employment in reporting establishments, which was 8,101 in March 1969, increased only by 96 persons to 8,197 in March, 1970. This was, however, in spite of the fact that during the period ending March, 1970 the number of reporting establishments declined from 113 to 107. Increase in employment in the year 1970 was due solely to increase in the public sector establishments.

In the private sector establishments, there was actually a decline in the employment from 1,775 as on 31 March 1969 to 1,370 in 1970. This decline in the employment in Private Sector establishments was, however, offset by increase in employment in the Public Sector over the same period by 501 persons. Increase in employment in the public sector, particularly in State Government sector, in 1970 over 1969 was due to the increase in educational institutions employment of class IV personnel in medical and public health, starting of District and Sessions Court as well as the transfer of one cooperative Bank from

private sector to the public sector. The employment opportunities in the private sector except casual employment were not encouraging. The Public Sector employment, on the other hand, has kept on increasing in the following years.

Employment Exchange

Employment Exchange in Vidisha District was established on 1st June, 1964. Employment Market Information Scheme was introduced at this Exchange in the same year. Under this Scheme information about employment in the private as well as public sectors is collected on quarterly basis. This is done by what is known as 'establishment reporting system'. Under this system, all establishments in the public sector and selected establishments in the private sector engaged in non-agricultural activities are required to supply details about the number of persons employed and the vacancies that have occurred and the types of personnel found to be in short supply. The information is collected from all establishments in the public sector and those employing 25 or more persons in the private sector, under provisions of the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, which has made it obligatory for them to submit to the local Employment Exchange, employment and occupational returns prescribed under the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Rules, 1960. Information from smaller establishments in the private sector is collected on voluntary basis.

As employment information is collected on 'establishment reporting' system, the information relates only to the employers and employees but not to independent workers or unpaid family workers.

The work done by the Employment Exchange since the year of establishment can be seen from the figures regarding registrations, placings and those on Live register, as given below :-

Table No. IX-10
Employment Position

Year	Registrations	Placings	On Live Register
1964	1,362	181	543
1965	1,978	230	738
1966	1,943	337	951
1967	2,813	356	1,352
1968	2,339	221	1,129
1969	2,690	388	1,364
1970	2,767	350	1,946
1971	3,205	425	2,369
1972	3,779	279	3,418
1973	3,167	534	2,889

National Planning and Community Development

The objective of the Community Development Programme is to create in rural people an urge for a better life, a progressive outlook and voluntary and cooperative endeavour to achieve betterment. The broad objective of the programme as defined by Dr. Douglas Ensminger of Ford Foundation is to assist villages in planning and carrying out an integrated multiphased family and village plan directed towards increasing agricultural production, improving existing village craft and industries and organising new ones. It also aims to provide minimum essential amenities like improved health practices, educational facilities for children and adults, recreational facilities and programmes, better housing and better living conditions in homes. The purpose is to create leadership as well as institutions at the village level which could sustain a tempo of the development in the village.

A beginning in the District in this direction was made by the establishment of a Community Development Block at Vidisha proper on 1st April, 1956. Since then, 6 more Blocks were established. The number of villages, area and population of each Block at the end of 1970 was as under :

*Table No. IX-11**Development Blocks in the District*

Name of Block	Date of establishment	No. of Villages	Area in sq. miles	Population (1961 Census)
Vidisha	1-4-56	212	361	67,220
Gyaraspur	2-10-56	233	387	42,929
Kurwai	1-4-57	225	548	53,337
Sironj	1-4-58	291	478	26,766
Basoda	2-10-60	317	536	81,479
Lateri	2-10-61	159	380	39,525
Shamshabad	2-10-62	154	210	56,299

1. Source : Administration Intelligence Unit, Office of the Development Commissioner, M.P.

The population covered by the seven Community Blocks was 3,67,555 which was 74 per cent of the total population in the District as per 1961 Census.

Development Efforts

During the Second Five Year Plan period 24,650 maunds of improved seeds and 9,381 maunds of chemical fertilisers were distributed in the four Block areas.

Agriculture Modern techniques of agriculture were brought to the notice of the agriculturists, through agricultural demonstrations which numbered 2,583. With a view to providing irrigation facilities 47 new irrigation wells and one tank were constructed in the Block areas. A total of 12,715 acres of land was made cultivable in all the Block areas. During the Third Five Year Plan period, there were seven Community Development Blocks in the District. During the period 31,060 quintals of improved seeds, 2,537 quintals of improved seeds other than cereals, 12,760 quintals of chemical fertilizers, together with 2,871 quintals of other fertilizers were distributed. The demonstrations of improved agricultural practice during this period numbered 3,571. Towards the provision of irrigation facilities 972 new *kutchra* and *pucka* wells were constructed and 340 old wells were repaired or renovated. Four tanks were repaired. The area of land reclaimed for agricultural purposes was 7,456 hectares. In addition to the activities towards improvement of agriculture as stated above, provision of improved implements of agriculture, improved animals, provision of compost pits, etc., were also carried on in the Block areas.

Block Development programme concentrated on the improvement in health and hygiene of the rural population. Steps towards this end included establishment of six primary health centres and sub-centres providing primary health facilities during the Second Five Year Plan period. Provision for drinking water was made by construction of 97 drinking water wells and by repairing of 77 old wells during the same period. Provision of rural latrines and construction of *pucka* drains were also undertaken towards improvement in rural hygiene. During the Third Five Year Plan period five primary health centres and 22 rural dispensaries were working in all the Blocks in the District. For provision of drinking water 208 wells were newly constructed and 134 old wells renovated.

In the field of education it is mainly the literacy amongst the adults in the rural areas that is being encouraged under the Block Development Programme.

Education During the Second Five Year Plan period, there were 52 adult literacy centres and the number of adults made literate numbered 2,202.

As a follow-up measure for maintaining literacy standards, the Block areas were provided with 97 libraries and reading rooms. During the Third Five Year Plan period there were 138 literacy centres and 3,048 adults were

made literate. Besides these there were 40 ordinary and Basic type schools with a total enrolment of 26,964. There were 51 reading rooms and libraries started during this Plan period.

During the Second Five Year Plan period there were 378 co-operative societies of all types started in the Block areas. During the Third Five Year Plan period, 245 co-operative societies of all types, which had a membership of 5,022, were started.

Besides the economic betterment activities, social and cultural aspects of rural development are also looked into by the Community Development authorities. These activities generally take the form of Social and Cultural establishment of Youth Clubs and Farmers' Unions, holding of Youth Camps, Children's Camps, Research Centres, *Mahila Samitis*, holding of Women's Camps, *Balwadis*, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, etc. All these activities are undertaken to offer opportunities to all sections of the rural community. The purpose of organising Youth Clubs, Farmers' Unions, *Mahila Samitis*, etc., is to bring forth and foster the varied talents amongst the rural population and to train for the betterment of the rural society as a whole. These activities in the Block Development areas were mostly undertaken during the Third Five Year Plan period. In this period 446 Youth Clubs and Farmers' Unions were started, which had a membership of 5,707. There were 193 *Mahila Samitis* started with a membership of 2,722. These figures indicate the response of the rural population in the Block areas to work for its own betterment, social as well as economic.

Block Development Programme is a co-operative venture, in the sense that Government not only seeks but encourages people's participation in all the development activities. People's participation through Expenditure voluntary labour or grant of facility of land, etc., is ultimately reckoned in terms of money along with the expenditure incurred by the Government on those activities. Thus, while during the Second Five Year Plan period Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 23.26 lakhs, people's contribution in different forms was estimated at Rs. 13.08 lakhs. As against this, during the Third Five Year Plan period Government expenditure was Rs. 30.68 lakhs, and people's participation was Rs. 13.88 lakhs.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

It would not be out of context to review the evolution of general administration in Vidisha District, which comprised parts of the former States of Gwalior, Tonk and Bhopal and the entire range of the small States like Kurwai, Pathari and Mohammadgarh. In the beginning the chiefs administered their territories with sovereignty and their local representatives too enjoyed all powers subject to the Ruling Chief's disapproval on specific matters. Mostly the high officials were the kith and kin of the ruling chiefs and were often granted territories. When these States came under the application of Subsidiary Alliance with the British, their systems were gradually changed into purposeful, democratic and sharply defined institutions.

Bhilsa *zila* of the Gwalior State was placed in charge of a *Subah* who was assisted by a *Kamasdar* in each *pargana*. The *Subah* was the *zila* magistrate and the chief revenue officer. The *Kamasdars* were subordinate magistrates (class II) who also acted as *munsifs*. The chief civil judicial authority was the *sadr amin* in the *zila*. The police force was headed by a Superintendent.

The *pargana* of Sironj, in Tonk State was placed in charge of an *Amil*, or Administrator. After the rebellion of the *Amil*, who was related to the *Nawab*, the post was converted into *Nazim*. The *Nazim* enjoyed magisterial powers but a Superintendent was placed in charge of the Police.

The administration in those three small States of Kurwai, Pathari and Mohammadgarh was controlled by a British Political Agent who was at the top of the hierarchy. There was a tahsildar and a *thanedar* in each State. A Superintendent for the three States exercised the powers of the District Magistrate, as well as of the Civil Judge. The court of the Political Agent at Bhopal was then a separate Appellate Court.

After the merger of State in the Union of India the petty States of Kurwai, Pathari and Mohammadgarh were grouped to form Kurwai, the third tahsil of Vidisha District in Madhya Bharat. Sironj *pargana* was grouped to form a full-fledged district in Rajasthan with a Collector and District Magistrate, a Superintendent of Police and other District level officers posted at Sironj. However, within two years only Sironj was placed as a Sub-Division of Kota District, the Sub-Divisional offices taking place of the District level offices. With the Reorganisation of States, the Sub-Division, with its two tahsils, namely, Sironj and Lateri formed part of Vidisha District.

The Collector is the chief Revenue Officer, the District Magistrate, the Chief Co-ordinator of a complex administrative machinery at the District level, and the most important link between the Government and the people. He is associated with all important matters in the District. The Collector has supervisory and mandatory powers over other branches of administration and is responsible for tranquillity and speedy socioeconomic development in the District. The set up and functions of the Collectorate along with a list of important District Officers of the State Government, is given in the following paragraphs. A short description of the Income Tax Office, Vidisha, the only Office of the Union Government, other than those of the Railways and Post and Telegraphs Departments, is also given in this Chapter.

Collectorate

The Collector of Vidisha has four Deputy Collectors and one Probationer Deputy Collector to assist him. Three of the four (regular) Deputy Collectors are each incharge of the Sub-Division of Vidisha with headquarters at Vidisha, Basoda (including tappa Shemshabad) and Sironj (including Lateri and Kurwai tahsils) with headquarters at Sironj.

The fourth Deputy Collector assists the Collector at headquarters and also exercises the powers of a Magistrate, First Class. The Deputy Collector Probationer is attached to the Collectorate for training.

The organisational set-up of the Collectorate may be divided into three main groups, viz., (i) Land Revenue and Land Records, (ii) Law and Order, and (iii) Development.

Land Revenue and Land Records

For the administration of the Land Revenue and Land Records Vidisha District is divided into five Tahsils, namely, Vidisha, Basoda, Kurwai, Sironj and Lateri. Of these five Tahsils, three Sub-Divisions as mentioned above are constituted. Each Sub-Division is in charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer of the rank of a Deputy Collector. They are also the Sub-Divisional Magistrates. There is one Tahsildar in each Tahsil. These Tahsildars are assisted by Naib Tahsildars numbering four at Vidisha, three at Basoda, one at Sironj, one at Lateri and two at Kurwai in the year 1969. In addition, one Additional Tahsildar and a Naib Tahsildar on probational duties are attached to the Tahsildar, Vidisha, as also one under-training Tahsildar each is attached to the Tahsildars, Basoda and Sironj, respectively. At village level the Revenue and Land Records work is carried on by the Patwari whose office in the past was hereditary. There are 315 Patwari Circles in the District looked after by the Patwaris. Supervising their work, there are 19 Revenue Inspectors, besides one Revenue Officer attached to the Land Records Office of the Collectorate. The following Table gives number

of Revenue Inspector circles and Patwari circles in each tahsil of the District.

Tahsil	No. of Revenue Inspector Circles	No. of Patwari Circles
1. Vidisha	4+1 Office attached	99
2. Basoda	5	113
3. Kurwai	2	43
4. Sironj	5	37
5. Lateri	3	23
Total	20	315

At the district level, a Superintendent of Land Records, assisted by two Assistant Superintendents of Land Records, supervises the work of Revenue Inspectors and Patwaris. The Superintendent of Land Records is the revenue Officer who compiles all the important statistics which form the base for the season and crop reports.

Law and Order

In the maintenance of law and order the Collector as District Magistrate is assisted by the Magistracy and the Police. There are three Sub-Divisional Magistrates and one Magistrate, First Class (Executive) as has been stated earlier. The Police force of the District is headed by a Superintendent of Police. The Revenue officers of the District enjoy such magisterial powers under the Criminal procedure Code as are necessary for effective maintenance of law and order, and prevention and suppression of crimes. Under this arrangement the Collector functions as the District Magistrate while the Deputy Collectors are styled as Executive Magistrates.

Development

The Collector is assisted by a Deputy Collector in the work relating to the Development in the District. There were seven development blocks in the District, viz., Gyaraspur, Basoda, Nateran, Kurwai, Lateri, Vidisha and Sironj. Each Block¹ is provided with a team of Extension Officers drawn from various departments, e.g., Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operative, and Panchayats. In addition, the Blocks of Vidisha, Basoda and Sironj are each having an Overseer drawn from the Public Works Department. Further down, there are village level workers both men and women, known as Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas. Each Block has two Gram Sevikas. Vidisha, Gyaraspur, Kurwai and Sironj

1. Prior to 1st January, 1966 each Block was headed by a Block Development Officer, but the post has since been abolished. Now similar posts of Development Assistants have been created to head the Block level staff who are working under the guidance of various Departmental District Officers and under the control of the respective Sub-Divisional Officers (Revenue).

Blocks each have 11 Gram Sevaks, the Blocks of Nateran and Lateri have 10 Gram Sevaks each, while 16 Gram Sevaks are posted at Basoda block.

In order to ensure effective participation of people in planning and execution of development programme, a Block Advisory Committee is constituted at each Block, the pattern of which is uniform throughout the State. The Committee consists of local Members of the Parliament and State Assembly, Chairmen of the Janpad Sabhas and members of Gram Panchayats. The Committee advises on the formulation of working-plans and development programmes of the Block, reviews the progress made and promotes people's participation and co-operation. The Collector, or his nominee, acts as the Convener of the Committee.

The Collector is also associated with a number of other committees in the District. Important among them is the District Advisory Committee, constituted in 1958 in every district. The Collector is the Convener of the Committee which consists of several non-officials such as local Members of Parliament and Vidhan Sabha, one representative of each tahsil elected by the Chairmen of Gram Panchayats, President of the Municipal Committee, Vidisha, and the President of the Co-operative Bank. The functions of this Committee are advisory in nature. The Committee meets at least once in two months, and problems purely of local importance are generally discussed by the Committee.

Statutory Powers of Collector

The Collector is vested with Statutory powers under Excise Act, so as to enable him to implement the excise and prohibition policy of the Government. For this purpose the District is divided into four Excise Circles. An Excise police force consisting of one Excise Inspector, ten Sub-Inspectors, one Head-Constable and twelve Constables have been earmarked by the Government for this purpose in the District. Supervising their work is the District Excise Officer.

The control of the District Treasury and Sub-Treasuries is also vested in the Collector. Generally an officer of Madhya Pradesh Accounts Services functions as the Treasury Officer of the District Treasury at Vidisha. The Treasury Office was started in 1948. Now there are four Sub-Treasuries in the District located at Basoda, Sironj, Kurwai and Lateri. The Tahsildar of the respective tahsil acts as the Sub-Treasury Officer.

The Collector is also charged with authority under Registration Act. In this work he is assisted by the Deputy Collector attached to the Collectorate who functions as the District Registrar. The District Registrar is assisted by five Sub-Registrars, each posted at the Tahsil headquarters of Vidisha, Basoda, Sironj Kurwai, and Lateri. The Sub-Registrars of Vidisha and Basoda belong to the Registration Department while at Sironj, Lateri and Kurwai, the respective Tahsildars are functioning as Sub-Registrars.

The Collector, in addition to the above duties is assigned work relating to many other miscellaneous subjects, such as, Elections, Census, Food and Civil supplies, etc. In the work relating to Food and Civil supply, there is a separate Food and Civil Supply section in the Collectorate. The headquarters Deputy Collector works as the Food Officer. He is assisted by an Assistant Food Officer, six Food Inspectors and five Assistant Food Inspectors. The number of Food Inspectors and Assistant Food Inspectors posted in each Tahsil is shown below :-

Tahsil or Mandi	Food Inspector	Assistant Food Inspectors
Vidisha	2	2
Basoda	2	2
Sironj	1	--
Kurwai	1	--
Lateri	--	--
Gulabganj (Mandi)	--	1

The Collector works as the agent of the State Government in the District and is the Chief Co-ordinating authority at the district level. In order to strengthen his position as the Chief administrator and Chief-Coordinator of the District, the State Government has conferred upon him various powers in 1964. The Collector has been authorised to issue instructions to any district level officer, excepting those of the Judiciary, Labour, and Sales Tax Departments, almost of mandatory nature. But in the event of the district officer concerned feeling that the instructions issued are either wrong or impracticable, he could refer the matter to the Commissioner of the Division, who has been authorised to take the final decision in consultation with the Head of the Department concerned. Besides, the Collector has been empowered to inspect the district offices. Further, every important scheme to be implemented in the District has to be brought to the notice of the Collector, so that he could keep an eye on the progress of the work. The Collector is also the Chairman of the District Gazetteers Committee.

Other District Level Offices

The following is a list of other district level officers, who are administratively under the control of their own heads of departments.

1. District and Sessions Judge.
2. Superintendent of Police.
3. Civil Surgeon.

4. District Family Planning-Cum-Health Officer.
5. Deputy Director of Agriculture.
6. Assistant Social Conservation Officer.
7. Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads).
8. Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Irrigation).
9. Assistant Engineer, Survey Sub-Division (Water-Works), Public Health Engineering.
10. District Excise Officer.
11. Sales Tax Officer.
12. Panchayats and Social Welfare Officer.
13. District Statistical Officer.
14. District Publicity Officer.
15. District Livestock Officer.
16. District Organiser, Tribal Welfare.
17. Employment Officer.
18. District Education Officer.
19. District Treasury Officer.
20. Assistant Director of Industries.
21. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies.
22. Company Commandant, Home Guards.
23. Manager, Ware Housing Corporation.

The Fisheries Department of Madhya Pradesh is represented in the District by the Fisheries Inspector, Vidisha, who works under the control of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Bhopal.

Central Government Offices

The following is the one notable Office of the Government of India, besides Post and Telegraph Offices and Railway stations located in the District. The organisational set-up of the same is as follows:-

The Income Tax Office, Vidisha, is functioning since the year 1964. The jurisdiction of the Income Tax Officer, Vidisha, is the whole of Vidisha and Raisen districts and Bina town of Sagar district. The strength of the ministerial staff attached to the Income Tax Officer was seven in the year 1968. Administratively the Income Tax Officer works under the control of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Gwalior Range, Gwalior.

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Some evidence of the system of land revenue assessment prevalent in the medieval period in the areas now constituting Vidisha District is available in *Ain-i-Akbari*. It has been reported that it had an area of 40,816 bighas with 60,94,970 dams as land revenue. This *mahal* was a part of the *sarkar* of Raisen in the *Subah* of Malwa. Todarmal's system of land revenue settlement was extended to these areas during Akbar's rule (1542-1605). Under this system, land was classified into four categories according to soil and fertility, and the gross produce was calculated on the basis of the produce grown during the preceding ten years. The average gross produce thus obtained for any particular piece of land was then commuted into cash on the basis of prices prevailing in the previous 19 years and one third of this amount was fixed as the king's share or rent. The assessment so made was intended to be continued for a period of 10 years, but actually it continued indefinitely in the absence of regular revision.¹ The annual fixed rent was paid directly by the cultivators to the revenue collectors, but if the village headman was required to assist the authorities in collecting the full rental, he was allowed a certain commission for his services. The important revenue officer was the *Amil* or *karori*², who supervised the village collections of his district. The other revenue officers were the *Kanungo*, *Chaudhari*, *Patwari*, etc.

Under the Mughals, the land was apportioned into *Khalsa* and *Jagirland*. The *khalsa* land was divided into charges and was managed by *Amils* and other State officials. The *Jagir* land was divided into blocks, or estates which were made over for life (the grants became hereditary at a later stage) to certain military commanders, ministers and courtiers who utilised the revenue for their own needs and for the upkeep of military force which they were required to maintain³. But this system collapsed at the time of Maratha invasion when the *Subas* and other officials became independent during the early part of the eighteenth century. The *khalsa* lands were held on *ijaredari* or farm system⁴. Under this system, a village, a *pargana* or whole district was carved out and for collection of its revenue (which besides land revenue included other cesses) a person of status was assigned the whole area or a part of it for a period ranging between three and ten years. The farmer, generally known as *ijaredar*,

1. Report of Taxation Enquiry Commission, 1953-54, Vol. III, pp.181-182.

2. Baden Powell, *Land System of British India*, Vol. I, p.256.

3. *ibid.* p. 257.

4. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 98.

was left free to make arrangements for the cultivation, etc., of lands and for the recovery of revenue. He could, therefore, manage the land leased to him as he liked and, generally, he lent money at exorbitant rates of interest and often acted as merchant-banker, who stood surety for the payment of Government demand and made occasional advances of grain or money to the cultivators. Thus, the *ijaredar* could squeeze as much money out of the cultivators as possible.

After the Gwalior State had become more or less consolidated, a regular administration was introduced. Under this change the nominal assessment of the land on rationalised basis was made. However, in the disturbed period the Chief raised money in the most arbitrary manner to meet the maintenance of large armies. This *ijaredari* system gradually went into disuse after the death of Maharaja Jankoji Rao (1827-1843), when the Council of Regency was set up and the *zamindari* system took its place. Henceforth, the land management of big villages was given on contract to land-holders. They were not only required to credit annually the Government demand, but were also required to furnish a rough account of the recoveries made from the cultivators. Lands cultivated by the contractors (*Khud-kashi*) were not assessed. On the expiry of the period of a particular lease, it was given to the same holder as far as possible.

In 1853, the *ijaredari* system was abolished and leases for a term of 12 years were granted. The first *zamindari* settlement was effected in the State on *pattabandi* system in 1853 corresponding in a general way with the *ryotwari* system. Under this system, each cultivator dealt directly with the State. The basis of the settlement was the nature of the soil, its situation and the possibility of irrigation. A second settlement was made in 1860, followed by other settlements in 1810 and 1883. These settlements were very crude and had no regular survey or field map, or record of rights or soil classification, or determined soil rate. In most cases, the Government demand was fixed in consultation with *lambardars* and the *chaudhari kanungos*.

The Settlement of 1893 was, however, based on a regular cadastral survey and up-to-date field map, but lacked soil classification assessment circles on registers of proprietors' holding (*khewat*). This summary settlement has field registers, village records and record of rights and was for 12 years. The rates were based on the quality of the soil conditions, such as rainfall, quality for irrigation and exports of produce and the class of

cultivators. In Vidisha where poppy was largely grown, the rate of land revenue ranged from Rs. 14 to Rs. 40 per acre. The current demand for Bhilsa zila was fixed at Rs. 3,41,658 as against the previous demand of Rs. 4,40,827.

The revision of the Settlement was to have been done in the year 1904, but due to famine conditions it was postponed till 1908, when new settlement operations were started in the District. Great many changes due to reclamation of waste lands had taken place. Want of details in old maps necessitated fresh survey in many villages. At this time, the work was assigned to a Divisional Settlement Officer, who was assisted by an Assistant Settlement Officer in the District. The work was taken up tahsil-wise. Rent Rate Reports of both the *parganas* of the then Bhilsa District were submitted during the year 1916-17. The area covered under settlement was 1,545 sq. miles comprising 830 villages. The sanctioned demand was Rs. 6,14,603 as against the expiring demand of Rs. 4,59,763.

The important achievement of this settlement was the preparation of a reliable record of rights such as village map, *khassra jamabandi*, the *wazib-ul-arz*, settlement of zamindars with their respective shares in the profits and liabilities in the village and the like. The general principles of the settlement were laid down in the Settlement Manual 1911-12. After a gap of about 30 years, Survey operations were re-started in the *parganas* of Bhilsa and Basoda in the year 1944-45.

In the former State of Kurwai, settlement operations concluded in the year 1910. During the revision in the year 1921-22, the revenue was increased from Rs. 83,000 to Rs. 1,28,000. Villages were settled on *ryotwari* basis. Villagers in Mohammadgarh State continued to be on *ijara* tenure. Demand in 1908-09 was Rs. 10,393. Pathari State consisted of 25 villages out of which 22 were *khalsa* and 3 *jagirdari*.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948 the settlement work was entrusted to two Settlement Officers, one for the Northern and another for Southern Division, with their headquarters at Bhilsa and Indore, respectively. The field work of Bhilsa Tahsil and rent-rate report of Basoda Tahsil was completed. The rent-rate report of Basoda Tahsil was prepared in 1950-51 and operation connected with settlement of Basoda and Kurwai were made in 1951-52. But these were not implemented which resulted in the status quo.

Survey of Sironj was undertaken in 1888. The total area was 9,42,552 bighas. *Kanun Mal* was framed in 1895. Settlement was undertaken in 1911 and completed in 1915. The *jagirdari* was abolished in 1954. New land records were prepared for Lateri in 1959 and for Sironj in 1960.

Land tenures under the Sindhia regime may be classified under three heads, viz., (1) Guaranteed estates/Jagirs (2) State Jagirs, which were sub-divided into *istimarari*, *tankedari*, *ubari*, *mufidari*, etc., and (3) *zamin-dari*. Their holders were classed as Sardars of the first and second grade.¹ The jagir areas were administered by the jagirdars, some of them were even granted revenue, judicial and police powers. Where, however, the holder of a *jagir* was a minor or widow or had been found guilty of gross mismanagement, disobedience and the like, the *jagir* was placed under the Department of Court of Wards. This Department owed its origin to the *Mahkama Sadar Supradanti* which was created in 1881, the name Court of Wards having been given to it in 1895.

In order to bring about an improvement in the administration of the jagirs managed by the jagirdars, a separate department was set up in 1908, headed by an officer known as *Muntazim jagirdaran*.² He had two sub-offices, one at Ujjain and the other at Shivpuri. The jagirs in Vidisha District came under the former sub-office. Subsequently, in 1937-38, the Department of Courts of Wards was amalgamated with the Department of *Muntazima jagirdaran*; with the latter as the head of the Department from both the jagirs and Court of Wards branches.³ This set-up continued until the State's merger in Madhya Bharat.

A record of the rights, honours and privileges of each jagirdar was contained in an official compilation called *Tarikh jagirdaran* (History of jagirdars) which was published in 1913. Another compilation named *qawaid jagirdaran* (Manual of jagirdars) was enacted in the following year which was a codified law regulating the relations between the Government and the jagirdars.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat, the jagir Court and Revenue Powers and Police Ordinance (No. 19 of 1948) which was later replaced by an act of the legislature, and Jagir Land Records Management Ordinance (No. 21 of 1948), were promulgated. In accordance with the recommendation of the Rajasthan-Madhya Bharat Jagir Enquiry Committee, 1949, Madhya Bharat Abolition of Jagirs Act 1951 (Act No. 28 of 1951), was enacted. This Act was challenged in the court by the jagirdars with the Supreme Court's judgement on 2nd February 1954. The Act was brought into force with retrospective effect from the 4th December 1952 and all rights of jagirdars in jagir lands were vested in the State free from all encumbrances. The Jagirdars were, however, allowed to remain in possession of lands cultivated personally by

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, pp. 102-03.

2. *ibid.* 1908-09, p. VII.

3. *ibid.* 1937-38, p. 9.

them enjoying the same rights as an occupant has in *ryotwari* land. The Act made a provision for the payment of compensation to the jagirdars.

The *Khalsa* villages were held in proprietary rights by zamindars for a term of years agreed upon at the time of settlement. Zamindari tenures were sub-divided into zamindari single and zamindari *pattidari*. Zamindari and Ryotwari Systems In single zamindari villages, the *numberdars* and in *pattidari* villages, the *pattidars*, collected the revenue from cultivators and paid the demand and dues into the treasury. The zamindars were classed as ordinary and occupancy. Those possessing occupancy rights had no right to alienate the holdings, and the land passed to their heirs. When no occupancy rights existed, the land could be given to any person, but in practice land very seldom failed to pass from father to son, whether actual occupancy rights were conceded or not. Nearly one third of the total annual revenue of the former State was as the Zamindar's share of profit. The *ryotwari* system was introduced in *Kham* villages under the Ryotwari Act, of 1917, but by the year 1925, there were no *Kham* villages left in the district. No land could be acquired compulsorily in zamindari or *ryotwari* villages by the state except for public purposes under the Land Acquisition Act on payment of compensation.

The idea of eliminating the intermediaries between the State and the tiller of the soil was pursued by the Madhya Bharat Government which appointed a committee in January 1949, which submitted its report in November, 1949. On the Committee's recommendation, the Madhya Bharat Zamindari Abolition Act (Act No. 13 of 1951) was enacted and brought into force from the 2nd October, 1951. For the implementation of the Zamindari Abolition Act, a separate department known as the Land Reforms Department was organised in 1951 with the Land Reforms Commissioner as the Head of the Department. At the district and tahsil level Compensation Officers and Deputy Compensation Officers, respectively were appointed for determining the amount of compensation to ex-zamindars. Claims Officers were appointed for adjudication of secured debts of claims owed by ex-zamindars. The work of assessment of land revenue in tahsils was entrusted to *patwari*, for the supervision of their task *girdawars* and *muharrirs* were appointed under the Land Reforms Department.¹

A Jagir Commissioner was appointed for implementation of the Abolition of Jagir Act, 1951. Under him were appointed Asstt. Compensation Officers at the headquarters of each district. They worked under the supervision of the Collector.

1. Madhya Bharat Bhu Sudhar Samiti ki Report, 1956, pp. 23.

The Madhya Bharat Land Revenue and Tenancy Act, 1950, was made applicable in the jagir and zamindari villages and Patel was appointed in each village to collect and pay land revenue into Government Treasury. The additional demand under land revenue which accrued in the District as a result of the abolition of zamindari and jagirdari system was of the order of Rs. 7.10 lakhs.

In keeping with the general policy, *jagirdari* system was liquidated in Sironj Sub-Division also and compensation paid for the loss of rights. During the year 1965-66, an amount of Rs. 55,000 was paid to *jagirdars* of Sironj Sub-Division. An amount of Rs. 19,021.58 was also paid on account of interest on compensation and rehabilitation grant to ex-jagirdars of the sub-Division.

Present Land Revenue System

Following the abolition of the jagirdari and zamindari system, uniform pattern of land revenue administration has been established all over the district. In every village there is a Patel through whom the land revenue is collected, though he is not held responsible for arrears. He is remunerated by the grant of a certain percentage on the realisation made by them. The office of the Patel was hereditary and continued undisturbed, so long as the incumbent was of good behaviour. However, since the coming into force of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code of 1959, this office became elective.

Besides this, out of the 190 Gram Panchayats constituted in the District under Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962, 31 Gram Panchayats have been entrusted to function for Patels in accordance with the provision of sec. 229 of the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue code through Village Panchayats. It is reported that they are discharging their duties properly. In the year 1965-66, out of the total collections of land revenue, 91 per cent were made by Patels whereas Rs. 1.85 lakhs were recovered by the Gram Panchayats.

The land revenue is received in two instalments, the first instalment (*karif kist*) being due on the 15th January in all the tahsils of the District. The second instalment (*rabi kist*) is due on the 15th May. Any land revenue due and not paid on or before the prescribed date becomes an arrear and the person responsible for payment becomes a defaulter. A penalty not exceeding 10 per cent of the unpaid amount is imposed on a wilful defaulter. A notice alongwith a statement of account showing the arrears payable to the Government duly certified by the Collector or the Tahsildar is served on the defaulters before any process of recovery is undertaken.¹

1. M. P. Land Revenue Code, 1959, Chapter XI.

Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses

Until the beginning of the present century, a certain rebate on the actual assessed revenue was made in the case of each village. The rebate known as *gaonti kharch* was utilised to cover the cost of *nazars* (presents) paid to State Officials, charitable grants to temples, expenses at festivals and the like. Later the Government abolished this institution and also stopped the payment of *bhets* (gifts) due to *chaudharis* or *kanungos* which used to be levied as a percentage on collected revenue varying from one to four per cent per annum, instead these officials started receiving salaries from the State in lieu of the dues. Formerly, the land revenue collected, covered all cesses and under the terms of the lease, the State could not make any extra levy. The annual demand and collection of land revenue in the District from 1951-52 to 1969-70 (for some selected years) are given in the following Table :—

Table No. XI-1

*Land Revenue—Demand & Collection**(Amount in rupees)*

Year	Demand		Collection
	Regular	Arrear	
1951—52	18,64,119	2,42,827	17,61,539
1956—57	20,82,380	6,47,456	21,11,883
1961—62	22,21,179	4,44,115	21,59,920
1966—67	21,21,190	1,64,083	22,62,889
1967—68	21,43,300	32,339	19,92,389
1968—69	20,23,338	1,83,250	20,29,626
1969—70	20,37,071	1,58,154	18,34,650

A Panchayat cess at the rate of half an anna per rupee of the land revenue was realised, alongwith the land revenue under the Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act 1949 and subsequently paid to the Panchayats in the District. Now under the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962 a cess @ 10 p. per rupee of the land revenue has been levied at the *panchayat* level.

The following table shows the income from *Siwai* (miscellaneous revenue) from 1960-61 to 1969-70 :—

Table No. XI-2
Siwai Revenue Demand & Collection

Year	Collection
1960—61	2,06,161
1961—62	2,23,286
1966--67	2,40,277
1967—68	1,60,826
1968—69	2,18,491
1969—70	2,70,199

Source :— Collector, Vidisha.

Relation Between Landlord and Tenant

There were zamindari and jagirdari systems in the former Gwalior State. In the zamindari areas, there were two classes of tenants, viz., (i) *maurusi* or occupancy tenants, and (ii) *gair maurusi* or tenants at will.¹ Under this system though the State had no direct financial relationship with the tenants, they were not entirely left to the tender mercies of zamindars. To regulate the relations between the zamindars and tenants, a codified law under the title *Qanoon Mal* (Land Revenue Code) was brought into force from 1904. It not only conferred valuable rights on tenants, but also contained provisions for protecting them against arbitrary ejection, rack-renting and other harassment.² The rent could not be enhanced except by an order of a competent revenue court on specific grounds and no occupancy tenant could be ejected, except for default in payment of rent, without the court's order. Further the occupancy right was made heritable. The rent, if unpaid, could be recovered by the zamindar only by prosecuting the debtor in a revenue court and obtaining and enforcing its decree.

In the case of a tenant-at-will, *patta* and *kaboodliyat* were compulsory as without them the zamindar could not sue him for rent or ejection. When the *patta* and *kabooliyat* were executed, each party was bound to confirm

1. Gwalior State Administration Report, 1917-18, p. 70.

2. Gwalior Today (1940), pp. 86-94.

to their terms. A tenant-at-will could acquire an occupancy right in one or more of the following ways :—

(a) Continuous occupancy of 12 years or (b) if the tenant sank and constructed any well or *bund* in his field or restored defunct well or *bund*, he could become occupancy in respect of all land irrigated from the well, or (c) if he broke virgin or fallow land longer than three years he could get occupancy in respect of all such land from the beginning.¹

Not only the provisions of *Qanoon Mal*, certain other measures were also undertaken from time to time to afford relief to the peasants, such as, the remission of some petty cesses. Notable amongst these was the system of *bavai* (a cess payable by a tenant in a bazar on a transaction in foodgrains), the abolition of which was ordered by the Government in 1914-15.² The *Qanoon Mal* was revised in 1927 and the revised Code was brought into force from 1st July, 1927. It marked a considerable improvement upon the previous one the most important change being the conferral of full proprietary rights on occupancy tenants in respect of their holdings.³ Further, it gives increased facilities to tenants-at-will for attaining occupancy status. When the agriculturists were hard hit due to the failure of crops or other reasons, the State used to grant suspension or remission of land revenue. Under the revised Code, the process regarding revenue collection in normal years and suspension and remission of revenue demand in lean years was simplified and liberalised so as to render ejectment for default a rare occurrence.⁴

At the time of trade depression and slump in the grain market during the thirties, the income of the agriculturists was seriously affected.

Besides suspending resettlement operations, the Government appointed a Rent and Revenue Relief Committee to find out what relief by way of remissions was essential to meet the emergency and on the recommendations of the Committee sanctioned liberal revisions in land revenue.

Again, the *Qanoon Mal* was amended in the year 1948 and the revised Code was allowed to continue in force in the former Gwalior State after the formation of Madhya Bharat. One of the amendments prohibited the eviction of non-occupancy and sub-tenants except in the circumstances in which an occupancy tenant could be evicted.⁵

1. Gwalior State Administration Report, 1917-18, p. 70.

2. *ibid.* 1914-15, p. 34.

3. *ibid.* 1926-27, p. 1.

4. *ibid.* p. 2.

5. M. B. Revenue Department File No. 25/1850, p. 81.

The Madhya Bharat Zamindari Abolition Act of 1951, besides abolishing the zamindari system, aimed at giving greater security and additional rights to the tenants. An amendment was made to the zamindari Abolition Act in the year 1954, according to which rent at the village rate was to be charged from every tenant.

In the jagir areas, the *ryotwari* system was predominant. In the *ryotwari* tracts, the tenants' rights broadly fell into the following two classes:-

(I) *Pukhata maurusi* or *Malkhanhak* holder had heritable as well as unrestricted rights of transferring a part or whole of his holding by sale or mortgage and sometimes even by bequest or gift.

(II) *Mamuli Maurusi* or *Pattedar* peasant who enjoyed heritable rights, but whose heritable rights were hedged round by restrictions.

The number of persons falling in the first category was small. The bulk of the peasants belonged to the second category, who were unable to transfer his land without the permission of Government or the assignee of the village.

The Jagir Tenants' Land Restoration Act was enacted in the year 1949 to enable the tenants to re-acquire their dispossessed lands. Attempts were also made by the Government to rationalize the land revenue and tenancy laws in the *ryotwari* villages. For this purpose, the Madhya Bharat Revenue Administration and Ryotwari Land Revenue and Tenancy Act, 1950 was enacted and brought into force from the 15th August, 1950. This Act, not only consolidated the position of the tenants in the *ryotwari* areas, but conferred occupancy tenants' rights on all those tenants who or whose predecessors' interest had been lawfully recorded as tenants. The Act also introduced certain restrictions on transfer of leases to enable more holdings of an economic size being created in future.¹

After the formation of new Madhya Pradesh, the whole position regarding land tenures and tenancy reforms in the constituent units was reviewed, and as a result, a unified Land Revenue Code, 1959, was enacted and brought into force from the 2nd October, 1959. This Code incorporates all the important features of land reforms, such as, uniformity of tenures, protection of tenants against arbitrary ejectment, rack-renting and conferring *bhumiswami* rights on them.

In place of multiple tenures existing previously, the Code provides for only one class of tenure holders of lands from the State known as *bhumiswami*. A *bhumiswami* has rights of transfer subject only to one restriction that such

1. *ibid.* p. 335.

transfer does not either create a holding above a prescribed limit or an un-economic holding below ten acres. Subject to certain rules in respect of the cutting of certain species, of trees, he has full rights over all kinds of trees in his holdings. A *Bhumiswami* has also a right to mortgage his land both by the simple or usufructuary mortgage subject, however, to certain restrictions. The table below shows the extent of the area occupied by *bhumiswamis* and other categories of tenure-holders :—

Table No. XI—3
Land held by Different Classes of Tenure-Holders

Year	Bhumiswamis	Bhumidharis	Govt. Lessees	Bhoodan Dharak	Service Land (in Acres)
1964—65	12,30,113	...	29,683	175	4,782
1965—66	12,30,894	...	29,951	195	4,526
1966—67	12,32,311	...	30,574	195	4,946
1967—68	12,33,674	...	30,986	195	4,948
					(In Hectares)
1968—69	4,99,560	8,297	13,173	79	2,001
1969—70	5,00,735	9,622	12,762	79	2,049

Source :— Collector, Vidisha.

The Code protects the rights of sub-tenants. All persons holding land from *bhumiswamis* as lessees, sub-tenants of *shikmis* on the date of the coming into force of the Code were termed as occupancy tenants. An occupancy tenant can be conferred *bhumiswami* rights on his paying 15 times the land revenue in five equal instalments. Occupancy tenants have taken advantage of this statutory provision. To protect the existing occupancy tenants of *bhumiswamis* from being rack-rented, it has been laid down that the maximum rent payable by an occupancy tenant shall not exceed four times the land revenue in the case of irrigated lands, three times the land revenue in the case of lands under *bandhs* and twice the land revenue in other cases. No sub-letting or leasing of land is now permitted except in very emergent cases, once in three years or by certain classes of persons, such as, widows, unmarried women, minors, etc. The Code provides for the preparation of a new set of record of rights. The entries in them shall be kept up-to-date by bringing on record annually all changes that take place after they have been certified by Revenue Officers not below the rank of Naib-Tahsildar.

The maximum of individual holdings in respect of future acquisitions was fixed at 50 acres by the former Madhya Bharat Government. In respect of existing holdings, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has enacted a special law, which is known as Madhya Pradesh Ceiling on Agricultural Holding Act. According to this Act, apart from inherited land, no person shall acquire more than 25 standard acres per family consisting of a husband and wife. Additional five standard acres have been allowed for dependants upto five to the maximum extent of 25 standard acres depending on the number of dependants, i. e., upto 50 standard acres. Again in 1972, the ceiling on agricultural holdings was fixed at 18 standard acres.

Rules for village *nistar* and grazing rights were framed in Gwalior State at the time of settlements and according to them, cultivators were having the right to grazing and *nistar* in the village waste and to trees in their holdings. A tenant was given the right free of charge, to graze his agricultural cattle in the waste land of his village and to collect from such waste land, grass, dry wood, thorns and leaves for his agricultural or domestic purposes.

In Madhya Bharat, these facilities were not only continued, but in 1954-55, ten per cent of the village area, if available, was also reserved for grazing. Now the Land Revenue Code, 1959 has directed the preparation of a *nistar patrak* for rights over occupied land in a village belonging to the State and *walib-ul-arz* for rights in or over lands belonging to other *bhumiswamis*. *Nistar* material is made available to the agriculturists at concessional rates and to others at commercial rates from the depots established by the Forest Department at convenient places of the District.

According to the Census of 1961, 79.3 per cent of the total 'workers' in the District were employed either as cultivators (62.7 per cent) or agricultural labourers (16.6 per cent). According to the provisional figures of 1971 Census, the respective percentage were 52.1 and 26.3. This establishes the importance of agriculture for the District and thus the question of wages to such labourers becomes an important one. An enquiry into the living conditions of agricultural workers in the country was conducted by the Government of India in 1951. Later, after the formation of New Madhya Pradesh, the State Government appointed a committee in January 1959 under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for advising it among other things in respect of minimum rates of wages in scheduled employment of agriculture. The Committee submitted its report in December 1959. According to this Committee there is a wide variety of practices, prevalent in respect of the cultivation

of land. The main varieties amongst them are, (i) cultivation of land by partnership, (ii) cultivating the land through 'attached' workers and (iii) cultivating the land by casual workers.

The most common system noticed by the Committee is that of partnership between the landowners and the agricultural labour, popularly known as *batai*. The tenure and condition governing this system are generally based on the tradition of sharing the produce of the land, the landholding partner supplying seeds, bullocks, manure and implements and the other partner supplying labour. This system, however, is losing ground gradually as farm labourers now generally prefer working on daily wages. The system of 'attached' workers is also losing popularity more with the worker than with the farmer. This is also partly because some agricultural labourers are gradually acquiring land themselves. The period of their employment is about 6 to 11 months. In some places such workers, especially those getting lower wages are given midday meals by the farmers. The rates of wages paid to woman and child labour are generally lower than those paid to man. The prevalent rates of wages in the District are as under :—

Table No. XI—4
Agricultural Wages

Month/year	Skilled Labourers			Field Labour	Other Agricultural Labour Man	Herdsman
	Carpenter	Blacksmith	Cobbler			
Jan. 1957	2.50	...	1.50	...	0.75	...
June 1958	3.00	4.00	1.50	...	1.50	...
Nov. 1958	2.00	2.00	1.25	...	1.25	...
June 1959	3.00	5.00	1.25	1.00	1.00	...
Nov. 1959	3.00	4.00	1.25	...	1.00	...
June 1960	N.A.	N.A.	1.50	...	1.50	0.60
Nov. 1960	5.00	5.00	1.50	1.25	1.25	0.75
June 1961	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	...
Nov. 1961	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	1.50
June 1962	5.00	5.00	5.00	1.75	2.00	...
Nov. 1962	4.50	4.50	4.00	...	2.00	1.62

Contd.

June	1963	4.50	4.50	3.50	2.00	2.25	1.50
Nov.	1963	4.50	4.50	4.00	1.50	1.50	1.50
June	1964	4.50	4.50	3.50	2.00	2.00	1.25
Nov.	1964	4.00	4.50	3.75	1.50	1.62	1.37
June	1965	4.00	4.75	3.50	1.75	1.50	1.87
Nov.	1965	4.00	4.50	3.25	1.75	1.75	...
June	1966	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Nov.	1966	4.00	4.00	3.25	2.00	2.00	1.75
	1967	4.35	4.48	3.60	2.05	1.98	...
	1968	5.00	5.00	4.25	2.10	2.00	...
	1969	5.50	5.50	5.50	2.00	2.00	...
	1970	5.50	5.50	5.50	2.00	2.00	...

Other Sources of Revenue

The fiscal system of the District was governed formerly according to the policies prevalent in the former Gwalior State which were different from what obtains today in Madhya Pradesh. The State being an independent entity in financial matters all its sources of revenue were 'State' subject and, as such, there was no source of revenue which could be called 'Central'. Besides the income from land revenue, the other important sources of revenue of the District were Customs and Excise, Forests and Stamps. At present, Central Excise, Income Tax and Estate duty are the Central sources of revenue, while State Excise, Stamps, Forests, Registration, Sales Tax and Taxes on Motor Vehicles, etc., are the State sources of revenue. A brief account of these items of taxation and income from them is given below, while the detailed statistics of revenue receipts are given in Appendix A.

The main excisable commodities in the District are tobacco, Vegetable non-essential oils, patent and proprietary medicines, etc. The receipt which totalled Rs. 2.22 lakhs in 1964-65 almost doubled in 1968-69 when they stood at Rs. 4.08 lakhs. They marked a further increase during the year 1970-71 with Rs. 6.85 lakhs. The receipts from Income Tax almost doubled during a period of five years only, i. e. from Rs. 7.27 lakhs in 1964-65 they rose to Rs. 14.17 lakhs in 1968-69. However, the receipts were lower at Rs. 12.05

lakhs in the subsequent year, but again rose to Rs. 14.31 lakhs in 1971-72. Receipts from Estate Duty are negligible, being only Rs. 2,692 in 1971-72.

State Sources

The income under this head is from liquor, opium (until 1-3-1958) and hemp drugs. The Madhya Bharat Excise Act of 1949 was enacted during 1949-50 when the Central Opium Act of 1857 and 1898 and the State Excise Dangerous Drugs Act of 1920 were also brought into force. The Madhya Bharat Excise Act of 1949 was replaced by an amended Act in 1952. The annual receipts from Excise show phenomenal growth from Rs. 26,797 in 1960-61 to Rs. 57,207 in 1964-65, Rs. 14.67 lakhs in 1969-70 and Rs. 16.70 lakhs in 1970-71.

The income under this head is from sales of stamps of various denominations, both judicial and non-judicial. Stamp revenue has risen considerably. The receipts which were Rs. 3.39 lakhs in 1964-65 were recorded as Rs. 5.66 lakhs in 1967-68 and Rs. 7.87 lakhs in 1971-72. The forest area of this District is administered by the Divisional Forest Officer, Raisen. The revenue from forests is derived from timber and other produce removed by Government and consumers, purchasers and from other miscellaneous sources like cattle grazing, etc. The District is not well endowed with forest wealth. Naturally, therefore, forests are not a promising source of revenue and increase in the receipts has been marginal only. The receipts increased from Rs. 2.38 lakhs in 1964-65 to Rs. 3.29 lakhs during the next year. They have oscillated round this figure in the subsequent years, rising to Rs. 5.10 lakhs in 1970-71.

The annual income under this head is derived from registration fee, copying fee, etc. Registration charges do not provide any sizeable revenue, as compared to Excise, Sales Tax and Entertainment Tax. The receipts were recorded as Rs. 40,185 in 1961-62, but steadily grew to Rs. 82,133 in 1967-68 Rs. 1,26,448 in 1969-70 and Rs. 1,26,140 in 1971-72. The Sales Tax was first introduced in Madhya Bharat in 1950 and levied under the Madhya Bharat Sales Tax Act, 1950 (Samvat 2007) and Madhya Bharat Sales Tax Rules, 1950 framed thereunder.

This is a promising source of revenue, the receipts having increased from Rs. 13.5 lakhs in 1964-65 to 21.97 lakhs in 1969-70. During the same period receipts under Central Sales Tax Act increased from Rs. 1.37 lakhs in 1964-65 to Rs. 6.35 lakhs in 1970-71.

The income under this head is derived from the registration of motor vehicles, issue of licences to drivers and conductors, etc. The annual receipts under this head have amounted to Rs. 1.45 lakhs in the year Tax on Motor Vehicles, 1967-68, Rs. 1.46 lakhs in 1968-69 and Rs. 1.40 lakhs in Entertainment Tax 1971-72. It is managed by the Excise Department of the State and levied on the entertainment programmes like cinema shows, drama programme, and *Kabaddi* and other shows arranged on tickets basis. With the cinema acquiring a prominent place as a popular source of recreation, receipts under this head have an unbroken record of progressive increase. The receipts which were recorded as Rs. 69,296 in 1960-61 have steadily grown to Rs. 2.49 lakhs in 1971-72.



CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

In early times in Vidisha District the forms of judicial procedure were practically non-existent. Customs and usage were prevalent in the place of law and there were no written laws. The Chief or the king administered justice in person from the throne. The subordinate officers had been delegated powers of judicial decision to a certain extent. All ordinary cases were decided verbally by the *jagirdar*.¹ The semi-religious systems inculcated by the Hindu *Shastras* and the *Quran* were taken as a guide. These laws being religious in their conception were personal and not territorial, and applied to the followers of different faiths, and made distinction between caste and rank. The fines levied went to the *jagirdar* or the chief. Mutilation was not an uncommon form of punishment, especially meted out to members of the lower classes. The Civil suits were usually settled by *Panchayats*.

In the former Gwalior State, of which Bhilsa (renamed Vidisha) was a district, the judicial arrangements were revolutionised in 1853, when the power of the *Ijardars* were abolished and appointments of *Kamasdars* and *Subahs* in charge of *parganas* and *zilas*, respectively were made. These officials exercised judicial powers within their areas. The Chief Court called '*Sardar Nizamat*' was established at Lashkar. A series of regulations known as the *Dasture-ul-amal* regulating the procedure of the courts were also issued at the same time.² In 1862, the *Sar-Subha* in Malwa and a *Subah* in the Bhilsa district of the erstwhile Gwalior State were given two assistants to conduct criminal and civil judicial work. In 1874 a Code, known as the *Kanun Faujdari* and *Kanun-Diwani*, *Kanun-mal* and *Kanun-adaam*, comprising respectively Criminal Law, Civil Law, Revenue Law and Miscellaneous regulations was promulgated. Fresh codes including a penal Code and Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes were drawn up in 1895. The British Civil Code, however, was mostly adopted with modifications to suit local conditions.

There were three classes of courts in the District. The lowest court was that of the *Munsif* (of three grades), the *Sadar Amin's* courts being next in importance, and finally the *Prant* (District) Judge's Court. The Chief Court was the highest tribunal. The *Munsif* dealt with suits upto Rs. 500/- in.

1. *Gwalior State Gazetteer*, p. 92.

2. *ibid*.

value, the *Sadar Amin* had jurisdiction in suits not exceeding Rs. 3,000 and *Prant* Judges not exceeding Rs. 50,000 in value. The appeals lay from the *Munsif's* court to the *Sadar Amin's* and then to the *Prant* Judge and the Chief Court, with a final reference to the Judicial Committee and the Maharaja.

The District Criminal Courts were those of the *Kamasdars* who were Magistrates of Second and Third Class. The *Subahs* were Zila Magistrates exercising powers similar to that of a District Magistrate in British India, and then came the *Prant* Judges. The *Prant* Judges used to preside over the Sessions Courts and were the same persons as the Civil (District) Judge. They also exercised a general supervision and control over the subordinate magistrates. The Criminal powers of the *Sadar Adalat* or Chief Court were unlimited; but all sentences of death required confirmation of the *Maharaja*.

In the present Vidisha District the areas of the erstwhile three Muslim princely States, namely Kurwai, Mohammadgarh and Pathari were also included. In these states all the cases were formerly decided in the Court of the Superintendent, who exercised the powers of District Magistrate also. Civil suits were generally referred to *Panchayats* and some important cases which involved material issues of law were decided by the Court of Superintendent, who was exercising the powers of a Civil Judge also.¹ Moreover States appointed a *Mucadam* (Headman) in each village to settle complaints and to submit their reports from time to time. Every *Mucadam* was in possession of some land in *Muafi* and had been given written instructions for guidance for the discharge of their duties. A Judicial Assistant was appointed in April 1910 to dispose of the minor cases in these three States, viz., Kurwai, Pathari and Mohammadgarh. The Assistant exercised the powers of a Second Class Magistrate in Criminal cases and entertained Civil suits upto the value of Rs. 50/-. Appeals from his decisions lay in the court of Superintendent and further, to the court of the Political Agent at Bhopal.²

In 1917-18 there were four criminal and four civil courts in Pathari State. In criminal matters the Nawab exercised the powers of a District Magistrate while the other three courts exercised the powers of Magistrate of First, Second and Third Class, respectively. Appeals from these three courts lay to the court of the Nawab and from there to the courts of Political Agent at Bhopal, who was also the Sessions Judge. The other three courts were of *Munsifs* of First, Second and Third class. The court of the Political Agent at Bhopal was the Divisional appellate court for the States.³

1. Administration Report of Pathari State, 1906-07, p. 3.

2. Administration Report of Kurwai State, 1910-11, p. 16.

3. Administration Report of Pathari State, 1917-18, pp. 2-3.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948 the judicial system in this area was regulated by Madhya Bharat Civil Courts Act, and for criminal cases by the Code of Criminal Procedure. The High Court of

Madhya Bharat

Madhya Bharat came into existence on the 29th July, 1948.

It was vested with the jurisdiction to entertain and dispose of all appeals, revisions and other cases civil and criminal, within the provisions of law on the same line as the Provincial High Courts. This Court had two Benches, one at Gwalior and the other at Indore. Vidisha District was under the jurisdiction of Gwalior Bench.

The *Subhas*, *Naib-Subhas* and *Tahsildars* exercised the powers of District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Second Class Magistrate, respectively, only for purposes of maintaining law and order within their jurisdictions. They also exercised powers conferred upon them under Chapter VIII, IX and XI of the Code of Criminal Procedure. For judicial purposes Bhilsa was a part of Shajapur district of Madhya Bharat.

Under the Madhya Bharat Civil Courts Act of 1949 the following five Courts functioned in Vidisha District.

1. Court of District and Sessions Judge, Shajapur (Bhilsa district was under its jurisdiction).
2. Courts of Civil Judge, First Class, Additional District Magistrate and Magistrate First Class.
3. Court of Munsif and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Second Class, Bhilsa.
4. Court of Civil Judge, Second Class and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, First Class, Bhilsa.
5. Court of Civil Judge, Second Class and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, First Class, Bhilsa.

The Act of 1949 was repealed by the Madhya Pradesh Civil Courts Act 1958 (Act No. 19 of 1958) with effect from 1st January, 1959. On the formation of new Madhya Pradesh, the structure of the other

Madhya Pradesh

courts in the District remained unchanged. Till 1961 Vidisha Revenue District was under Guna Civil District.

In 1961 Vidisha Revenue district was transferred to Bhopal Civil District and a Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge was created at Vidisha. But since 14th November 1969, Vidisha is a separate Civil District.

Present position

The Court of District and Sessions Judge at Vidisha is the highest court for Vidisha revenue District.

In addition, there are four Courts looking after the civil and criminal work of the District, namely,

- (1) Civil Judge Class I, Vidisha.
- (2) Civil Judge Class II, Basoda.
- (3) Civil Judge Class II, Basoda.
- (4) Civil Judge Class II, Vidisha, Kurwai, Sironj.

Separation of Judiciary from Executive

The scheme of separation of Judiciary from Executive continued to be in force in this District even after the reorganisation of the new State of Madhya Pradesh. The judicial officers try all criminal cases except those falling under Chapter IX and XI of the Code, i. e., District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tahsildars, etc.

Nyaya Panchayat

Nyaya Panchayats are to provide the village folk with cheaper, speedier and simpler justice. Thus the Nyaya Panchayats function within the framework of ordinary laws and enable the representatives of the people to participate in the administration of justice in civil and criminal cases of petty nature. Previously, the Village Panchayats were settling minor disputes among villagers. After the formation of Madhya Bharat the Panchayats were more effectively organised. In 1951, Madhya Bharat Panchayats Act (No. 26 of 1951) was passed and under this act the Village Panchayats were deprived of judicial powers and new bodies called Nyaya Panchayats were established. There were 11 Nyaya Panchayats under this act in the District during the period between 1957 and 1969. Each Nyaya Panchayat normally covered an area of a Revenue Inspector's Circle. The number of members of each Nyaya Panchayat ranged from 5 to 10. The members were elected by the Panchas and the normal term of a Nyaya Panchayat was one year. Nyaya Panchayats under Rajasthan Panchayat Act numbered 19 during the period 1957-1969.

The Nyaya Panchayats established under this Act enjoyed a number of civil and criminal powers under Sections 68, 70, 71, 75 and 76 of the Act. After the Reorganisation of States, the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act of 1962 was passed. As regards civil powers they embraced cases whose value does not exceed Rs. 100/-. In criminal cases only fines can be imposed by these Panchayats. The judgements, decrees and orders of the Nyaya Panchayats are

final, though the Sessions Judge in criminal cases and the District Judge in civil cases have been empowered to call for and examine records of such a case and pass such order as they deem fit.

The table below shows the period-wise details regarding the number of Nyaya Panchayat cases in the District.

Table No. XII-1
Nyaya Panchayat Cases

Year	No. of Cases Disposed	
	Civil	Criminal
1951-52	586	329
1957-58	620	524
1961-62	629	384
1966-67	521	413
1967-68	452	415
1968-69	401	379

Source—District Panchayats and Social Welfare Officer, Vidisha.

Incidence of Crimes

In Vidisha District the crimes reported are mainly relating to offences like Dacoity, Burglary, Offences under Penal Code Section 363 and 366 and others, as depicted in the following Table.

Table No. XII-2
Crime Situation

Year	Dacoity	Robbery	Murder	Riot	Burglary	Cattle theft	Thefts ordinary	Under I.P.C. Section 363	Miscellaneous I.P.C. Crimes	Total
1951	5	10	13	12	154	15	89	2	338	638
1956	3	5	8	23	201	21	98	1	342	702
1961	6	13	17	31	152	91	250	6	406	972

Contd.

1966	6	17	15	52	234	70	246	6	435	1081
1967	10	10	16	55	222	61	212	3	905	1494
1968	11	16	24	54	227	63	244	7	752	1398
1969	10	14	19	73	215	31	211	1	573	1156
1970	7	7	8	39	219	53	245	10	544	1123

Source—Superintendent of Police, Vidisha.

Dacoity and Robbery

Dacoities are generally committed by gangs from adjoining areas of districts Guna and Sagar. In a few cases some of the dacoits from Bhind and Jalaun (Uttar Pradesh) had committed offences in this District. The highest number of offences committed was in 1968 when eleven cases were registered as against only three in 1956. The highest number of offences under the head of robbery was 17, committed in the year 1966 as against only five cases in 1956.

Murder and Riots

The number of offences of murder were higher in the year 1961 and 1966 to 1969. The same trend is visible in the number of cases under riots.

Burglary

Burglary is generally committed by local criminals. However, some of them are committed by Pardhies and Bawarias. There are nearly 60 families of Pardhies settled in this District. The highest number of offences reported was 277 in 1968 while the lowest being 152 in 1961.

Ordinary thefts

Cycle thefts, Pick-pocketing, and thefts in Bazars and Hats fall under this head. The highest number of cases reported was 250 in 1961. As against 246 in 1966 the number was lowest in 1951 with 89 cases. Considering the number of cases investigated, it is seen that 237 cases, the highest number, were investigated in 1970 as against 229 cases in 1968 and 80, the lowest, in 1951. Tracing the details regarding persons convicted, the highest number, i. e., 112 was in 1968 as against 104 in 1966 and 74, the lowest, in 1969 and 1951. The total value of stolen property was the highest (Rs. 58,487) in 1970 and lowest (Rs. 14,251) in 1951. The details of cases reported, investigated, persons convicted and total value of property stolen is given in the Table below.

Table No. XII-3

Ordinary Thefts

Year	Cases reported	Cases investigated	Persons convicted	Total value of property stolen
1951	89	80	74	14,251
1956	98	91	52	19,748
1961	250	195	84	23,792
1966	246	227	104	41,893
1967	212	195	87	25,70
1968	244	229	112	40,394
1969	211	204	74	51,837
1970	245	237	76	58,487

Source—Superintendent of Police, Vidisha.

Property Stolen

The highest number of cases reported was 595 in 1961 as against 573 in 1966 and the lowest 273 in 1951. Accounting for the number of cases of recovery it will be seen from the table below that in 1968 recovery was effected in 514 cases as against 489 cases in 1970. The lowest was 143 in 1956. As regards total value of property stolen, it will be seen that the highest amount was in 1968 (Rs. 2,53,506) and the lowest in 1956 (Rs. 84,301). Taking into consideration the question of property recovered, the highest amount was Rs. 95,936 in 1967 as against Rs. 58,092 in 1968 and, the lowest, Rs. 19,321 in 1951.

Table No. XII-4

Property Stolen

Year	No. of cases reported	No. of cases in which property was recovered	Total value of property stolen (Amt. in Rs.)	Total value of property recovered (Amt. in Rs.)
1951	273	159	97,784	19,321
1956	328	143	84,201	24,852
1961	595	276	2,53,945	20,976

Contd..

1966	573	319	1,52,389	55,304
1967	513	280	1,81,960	95,936
1968	561	514	2,53,506	58,092
1969	481	427	1,86,274	N.A.
1970	530	489	2,01,335	53,686

Source—Superintendent of Police, Vidisha

Cognisable Crimes

The table below shows the details regarding the cognisable crimes in the District. The highest number of cases reported was 1147 in 1969 followed by 1115 in 1970 and the lowest 537 in 1951. Considering the number of cases investigated, it will be seen from the table that the highest number of cases challaned was 745 in 1968, followed by 736 in 1969 and 700 in 1970, and the lowest 286 in 1951. Considering the number of persons challaned, it will be seen that the highest number was 2103 in 1969 followed by 1829 in 1968 and 534, the lowest, in 1951.

Table No. XII-5
Cognisable Crimes

Year	No. of cases reported	No. of cases investigated	No. of cases challaned	No. of persons challaned	No. of persons	
					Convicted	Acquitted
1951	537	528	286	534	313	220
1956	604	597	270	496	189	304
1961	844	789	364	839	511	328
1966	978	640	345	959	570	389
1967	1013	996	637	1555	724	372
1968	1115	1110	745	1829	374	159
1969	1147	1140	736	2103	312	419
1970	1115	1107	700	1578	210	324

Source—Superintendent of Police, Vidisha

Organisation of Police Force

The scanty financial resources of smaller states of Pathari, Mohammadgarh and Kurwai prevented them from having a well organised Police Force. There was no distinction between the Military and the Police. The mention of the words *Barkandaz*, *Kotwal*, etc., in old records indicates that there were organised local bodies which looked after the safety of district officials, but their duties do not seem to have been well defined. These men were paid either by the *Darbar* or by the *Ijardars*.

The earliest reference to the Gwalior State Police dates back to the year 1853 in the District, when Gwalior Police Manual was published. The Police Regulation of 1853 did not make any distinction between cognizable and non-cognizable offences. Police was empowered to arrest in all cases. Police functions were also combined with judicial powers. The staff consisted of *chaukidars*, constables, *Thanedars* and *Kotwars*, for city and Zila, who acted under the district officials. In the year 1856 the Government of India, in addition to the troops allowed by treaty in the district, organised a special Police Force known as 'Nujeebs'. This force was used as constabulary for the revenue and police duties in the interior of the District, though not as part of a military force.

In 1903 the District force was put in charge of the District Superintendents. The Sar-Suba officer of Malwa was made an *ex-officio* member of Police force, invested with the powers of the Deputy Inspector-General and made responsible for the Police administration of Malwa Prant. The *Subas* continued to be vested with the powers of an Assistant Inspector-General of Police.

Towards the end of 1935 the scheme of reorganisation of Police was taken up and a cadre of Deputy Superintendents of Police was created to assist the local Superintendent of Police.

With effect from 1st October, 1950, the special armed force was taken over by the Madhya Bharat Government.

In 1956, a Sub-Divisional Officer (Police) was posted to look after the work of Police Stations of each Sub-Division and a Superintendent of Police was posted at Vidisha District headquarters.

Present Organization

The District Police is headed by the Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Vidisha. He is assisted by a Sub-Divisional Officer (Police) at Sironj for Sironj and Lateri Tahsils and one Deputy Superintendent of Police,

posted at Vidisha for Vidisha, Basoda and Kurwai Tahsils. In addition there is the subordinate staff of Circle Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables. The annual budget of the Civil police in the District amounts to Rs. 16 lakhs.

The District is divided into circles, each in the charge of an Inspector. Each Circle is again divided into Station House areas, each headed by a Senior Sub-Inspector for the purpose of police investigation. In 1970 the District had 16 Police Stations at Vidisha, Gyaspur, Basoda, Teonda, Shamshabad, Kurwai, Pathari, Sironj, Dipankheda, Lateri, Anandpur, Unrasital, Anarsikalan, Thandeva, Tonkra and Satpara.

The crimes committed in villages are reported at Station House by village watchmen, known as *Kotwars* and if of sufficient importance, investigated by the Station House staff under the supervision of a Sub-Inspector. The District has a prosecuting Inspector who conducts prosecutions in magisterial courts assisted by prosecuting Sub-Inspector. The Collector as District Magistrate exercised a general control over the functioning of the Police.

Home Guards

The Home Guards is a voluntary force on a quasi-military footing and is intended to supplement civil power and generally to assist the Police in the discharge of their lawful duties in times of emergency. The scheme was introduced in this District with effect from October, 1961. Initial training of one month was imparted at the Home Guards Training Centre, Karera, Shivpuri District. Thereafter two training centres of three months' duration were started at Vidisha on 12th November, 1962 and 48 persons from rural areas were enrolled. In the year 1963-64, three training centres were opened at Vidisha and 70 Home Guards were trained for a period of three months bringing the total of trained Home Guards to 153 in 1964. In March, 1963, twenty-eight Home Guards were sent to Khamaria (Jabalpur) for higher training of N. C. O.s (non-commissioned officers).

The Company Commandant is the head of the District unit while the Commandant-General, Home Guards at Jabalpur looks after the Home Guards organisation of the whole State. The District Magistrate is empowered to call the Guards in emergency in case of necessity.

Jails and Lock-ups

Prior to 1963, there were two sub-jails at Kurwai and Sironj, where medical officers were working as *ex-officio* Superintendents. They were assisted by assistant Jailors, Head Warders and Warders. A sub-jail at Vidisha was

started in the year 1963. With the reorganization of jails two sub-jails at Sironj and Kurwai were abolished later on. At present there are two judicial lock-ups in the District at Sironj and Basoda towns. Being located at the Sub-Divisional headquarters of this District, these lock-ups are under the charge of the respective Judicial Magistrates. The lock-ups house only under-trial prisoners and on conviction they are transferred to other jails.

The Vidisha Sub-Jail is managed by the Civil Surgeon who is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of the Jail. The subordinate staff consists of the Deputy Jailor, Assistant Jailor, Head Warders, Warders and Compounders. In Vidisha sub-jail the majority of persons are under-trial prisoners. Convicts with short-term sentences are, however, detained here for essential services. The accommodation in this jail in the year 1968 was for 50 prisoners.

Prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment are engaged in different working of trades. Prisoners in Jails are given temporary release for 10 days under the Good conduct Rules. Prisoners of exemplary conduct become eligible to receive concessions like visit from friends, exemption from fetters, good conduct badge and promotion to some prison office, money gratuities, remission of sentence and present of tools, etc., on release. Extra labour, along-with good conduct, fetched remission of sentence. The deserving prisoners are given facilities to pursue their studies further. They are provided with sports articles, books, etc. The jails are governed by the Madhya Pradesh Jail Manual. The table given below shows the details regarding the number of prisoners during the years from 1965 to 1968.

Table No. XII-6

Number of Prisoners

Year	Prisoners at beginning of the year	Received during the year	Total	Discharged from all causes	Remaining at the end of the year	Total daily average of prisoners
1965	10	10	286	296	18	8.83
1966	18	18	395	413	22	16.37
1967	22	22	284	305	26	12.63
1968	26	26	338	306	24	16.10

Source—Superintendent, Sub-Jail, Vidisha.

Legal Profession and Bar Associations

There are three Bar Associations in the District located at Vidisha, Sironj and Basoda. The Bar Association at Basoda was established in 1940. The Association has about 33 members. There is no written constitution of the Association. The Bar Association at Sironj was established in January, 1953. The membership at the time of inception was 6 and it has gradually risen to 19 members by the end of 1970. There is no written constitution of the Association. There is a small library maintained by the Association for the benefit of its members.



CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture

The work of the Agriculture Department in the District is looked after by the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Vidisha. The office of the Deputy Director was established in the year 1965. Its jurisdiction extends over the whole of Vidisha District. The office functions under the administrative control of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Bhopal Division, Bhopal and under the overall control of the Director of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Deputy Director guides and supervises over all the work of the Department including that pertaining to the Government Agricultural Farms and examines the feasibility of different agricultural development schemes in the District and make arrangements of various inputs required for the smooth running of these schemes at Block level. In addition, he also carries out the Seed Certification Scheme, Machine Tractor Station Scheme, Soil Conservation Scheme, and other schemes and plans of the Department taken up from time to time. In the year 1969 five Agricultural Assistants, one Marketing Instructor, two Compost Inspectors and six Demonstrators assisted the Deputy Director in his general duties and the work concerning horticulture. The Seed Certification Scheme is carried out by two field Inspectors and two Demonstrators. The Machine Tractor Station Scheme is in the charge of an Agricultural Assistant, assisted by two Demonstrator Kamdars and a Patwari.

There are two Assistant Soil Conservation Officers, one each posted at Vidisha and Sironj. The jurisdiction of the Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Vidisha, extends over the Blocks of Vidisha, Gyaraspur, Nateran and Basoda, whereas that of Sironj over Sironj, Lateri and Kurwai Blocks. They guide and supervise the work of a Soil Conservation Team consisting of 5 Agricultural Assistants, 20 Surveyors, one Draftsman and a Tracer, each. The Government Agricultural farms of Vidisha and Kurwai are manned by Farm Superintendents and a Fieldman, while a Nursery In-charge looks after both the farms.

There are seven Agricultural Extension Officers, each one posted at the block headquarters of Sironj, Lateri, Kurwai, Basoda, (Nateran), Vidisha and Gyaraspur, and working under the control of the respective Sub-Divisional

Officers and the Collector. Below the rank of Extension Officers, there are 79 village Level Workers working in the Blocks. The technical supervision, guidance and control of these Extension Officers rest with the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Vidisha.

The complement of staff working in the District in 1969 was 164 Executive, 4 Technical and 27 Ministerial, including those earmarked for various schemes, farms and development blocks.

Veterinary

The Animal Husbandry work in the District is looked after by the District Live Stock Officer, Vidisha. His office was created in the year 1962 and was placed under the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, Bhopal Division, Bhopal. The over-all control of the Department lies with the Director of Veterinary Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Live-Stock Officer is assisted by nine Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, two Sub-Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and twenty Stockmen. He is also assisted by the six Veterinary Extension Officers posted in the various Development Blocks of the District. Three Veterinary Surgeons and Stockmen are posted either in one of the veterinary Hospitals, dispensaries and the Mobile Unit, or in the District Office.

The District Live-Stock Officer is responsible for the general health and improvement of cattle and animal stock. He supplies medicines to the veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the District and keeps a check on the epidemics of domestic animals and birds by providing preventive medicines and injections. He introduces improved varieties of animals and birds in the District and maintains breeding-centres of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, fowls, etc., of improved breed. Artificial Insemination Centres and Units are also working under his control. Grants-in-aid are also provided to the Gram-Panchayats by the Live-Stock Officer. He disseminates information and imparts veterinary education to the public through pamphlets, books, charts exhibitions and personal guidance.

The Mobile Unit is placed in the charge of a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, to prevent the animal epidemics at animal fairs and provides veterinary medical aid to the animal stock in the villages.

Fishery

Prior to 1965 there was an office of the Fishery Inspector to look after the piscicultural activities in the District. The office of Assistant Fishery Officer was created in that year. The Assistant Fishery Officer, Vidisha, is assisted by

one Fishery Inspector, two Fishery Jamadars and usual clerical staff. He functions under the administrative control of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Bhopal Division, Bhopal. The over-all control of the Department lies with the Director of Fisheries, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Co-operation

To look after the co-operative activities in the District an office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Vidisha, was established on 1st November, 1956. The organisation and registration of Co-operative societies in most of the sectors of economic developments, e. g., Credit, Banking, Marketing, Consumers, Housing and Industrial, are the responsibilities of the Assistant Registrar. He is also responsible for their periodical inspections and annual audits and for effective checks on the irregularities. The office has jurisdiction over the whole District of Vidisha and functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhopal Division, Bhopal, and under the over-all control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhopal.

The Assistant Registrar is assisted by an Audit Officer and a number of Sub-Auditors and Co-operative Inspectors at Vidisha. The Pilot Project Officer headquartered at Basoda, and seven Co-operative Extension Officers posted each at the block-headquarters, also work under his guidance. The complement of the Executive staff numbers 43 and the Ministerial staff 8.

Education

The Educational activities of the District are looked after by the District Educational Officer, Vidisha. He works under the administrative control of the Divisional Superintendent of Education, Bhopal Division, Bhopal, and under the over-all control of the Director of Public Instruction, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The District Educational Officer in his work is assisted by one Assistant District Educational Officer, 16 Assistant District Inspectors of Schools, one Assistant Attendance Officer and the usual ministerial staff.

Employment Exchange

To render help to employment seekers in obtaining employment and assist the employers in procuring the required qualified manpower for their establishments, the Employment Exchange, Vidisha, is functioning in the District since the year 1964. The Exchange is placed in the charge of an Employ-

ment Officer who is assisted by one Statistical Assistant and usual staff. The Employment Officer is controlled by the Director of Employment and Training, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.

Economics and Statistics

The office of the District Statistical Officer, Vidisha, was established in 1956. The office collects, processes and supplies statistical information of economic activities in the District. The Statistical Officer works under the control of the Director of Economics and Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Statistical Officer is assisted by two Statistical Assistants and usual staff. Mainly, the office collects statistical data from various departments, undertakes on-the-spot investigation and maintains a record of progress of the Five Year Plans. The preparation of economic reports of the District, compilation of the yearly Statistical Abstract, monthly reviews, Annual Progress Reports of the Five Year Plans, etc., are the usual work of the Department.

District Family Planning-Cum-Health Office

For the purpose of planning, implementing, co-ordinating, supervising and evaluating the Family Planning Programme and promoting the public health activities throughout the District, an office of the Family Planning-cum-Health Officer, Vidisha District, Vidisha, was started in 1968. The office functions under the control of Director of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Family Planning-cum-Health Officer is assisted by seven Medical Officers, three Assistant Surgeons, one Administrative Officer, two District Extension Officers and Educators, and usual ministerial staff. As a whole the complement of staff attached to him in the year 1969 was 43 Executive, 19 Ministerial, 161 Technical and 55 non-Technical (Class IV). By 1971 the total number of staff had risen to 308 with Executive 80, Ministerial 29, Technical 148 and Non-technical 51.

Home Guards

The Home Guards Unit, Vidisha, is in the charge of a Company Commandant. He imparts quarterly Home Guards training course to intending villagers who are physically fit and keeps them in reserve for three years for being called on any emergency duty. The aims of the Organisation are to maintain Law and Order and to help the Police in emergencies on one hand, and to create a pool of disciplined citizens on the other.

The Company Commandant, Home Guards, Vidisha, works under the over-all control of the Commandant-General, Home Guards, Madhya Pradesh,

Jabalpur. The Company Commandant, Vidisha, in his work is assisted by four Instructors and usual staff

Industry

To look after, guide and promote the Industrial activities in the District a District Industries Office headed by an Assistant Director of Industries is functioning in the District from 1st November, 1959. The office functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Industries, Bhopal.

The Assistant Director of Industries is assisted by three Industries Extension Officers, including the one working as an Inspector of Industries. Besides, there is also a Technical Assistant.

Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads)

The work of construction and maintenance of roads and Government buildings in Vidisha District is placed in the charge of the Executive Engineer (Buildings and Roads), Vidisha. The office was established at Vidisha in the year 1968. This office functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads), Bhopal Circle, Bhopal.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by three Assistant Engineers with headquarters at Vidisha, Basoda and Sironj, respectively and a complement of other ranks. The strength of the staff attached to the Executive Engineer was Executive 26, Technical 10 and Ministerial 27 in the year 1968.

Public Works Department (Irrigation)

To plan, survey, construct and maintain the irrigation works in the District there is an office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Vidisha, functioning since 20th June, 1964. The office functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Bhopal.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by three Assistant Engineers, who are working as Sub-Divisional Officers, each in charge of (i) Irrigation Sub-Division, Vidisha, (ii) Minor Irrigation Sub-Division, Vidisha, and (iii) Koncha Project Sub-Division, Koncha.

As a whole the Executive Engineer has a complement of staff of 64, which includes 25 Executive, 11 Technical and 28 Official in the year 1968.

Public Health Engineering

For collection, distribution and maintenance of water-supply, after proper treatment, to Vidisha town, the Water Works and Drainage Works, Vidisha, was established in 1948. For controlling the above works and surveying and executing the drinking water-supply schemes to problem villages in the District, initiating the construction of Water Supply Schemes at Basoda and Bhorasa and administering regular collection and disposal of sewage at Vidisha, the survey Sub-Division, Public Health Engineering, Vidisha, was established in the year 1964. The Sub-Division is headed by an Assistant Engineer, who works under the administrative control of the Executive Engineer, Public Health Division No. I, Bhopal.

The Assistant Engineer is assisted by an Overseer In-charge Water Works, Basoda. As a whole, the complement of Staff attached to the Assistant Engineer was Executive 6, Technical 33, and Ministerial 6, in addition to the work-charged staff in the year 1971.

Panchayat and Welfare

To look after the social welfare activities in the District the District Panchayats and Welfare Office is functioning at Vidisha from 1963. The officer has jurisdiction over the whole District and is under the administrative control of the Divisional Panchayats and Welfare Officer, Bhopal. He organises, supervises and helps the Panchayats and social and cultural activities in the District. Their functions and accounts are also checked by the officer.

The Panchayats and Welfare Officer is assisted by one District Auditor, eight Panchayats and Social Education Organizers (at block level), three Sub-Auditors, one Social Education Organizer, one Radio Mechanic, one Cinema Operator and usual staff.

Publicity

To give wide publicity to Five Year Plans and other important activities of the Government at district level, the office of the Public Relations Officer, Vidisha, is functioning since 1956. The officer functions under the administrative control of the Director of Publicity and Information, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Public Relations Officer is assisted by only Public Relations Assistant and usual staff.

Tribal Welfare

To look after the tribal welfare activities in the District ■ Tribal Welfare Assistant's office is functioning as a part of the Collectorate. The Tribal

Welfare Assistant is assisted in this work by one Circle Organizer headquartered at Bareth, and usual staff.

Weights and Measures

The offices of the Inspectors, Weights and Measures located at Vidisha and Basoda were established in the year 1961, with a view to introducing Metric Weights and Measures in the District. There are three Inspectors of Weights and Measures in the District, two headquartered at Basoda and one at Vidisha. One of the Inspectors at Basoda has jurisdiction over Basoda and Kurwai tahsils while the other's jurisdiction extends over Sironj and Lateri tahsils. The Inspector at Vidisha looks after the Departmental work in Vidisha tahsil including the Vidisha town.

These offices function under the administrative control of the Assistant Controller, Weights and Measures, Bhopal.

Sales Tax

To collect the Government revenue of Sales Tax and implement the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh General Sales Tax Act, 1959, the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the Madhya Pradesh Motor Spirit and Lubricants Tax Act, and the Sugarcane Tax Act in the District, the office of the Sales Tax Officer, Vidisha, was established on 1st July, 1956. With effect from the year 1967 the Sales Tax Officer is also entrusted to implement the *Madhya Pradesh Vriti Vyavasaya and Ajivika Adhiniyam*.

The Sales Tax Officer is assisted by two Assistant Sales Tax Officers, three Sales Tax Inspectors and the usual staff. He functions under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Sales Tax, Madhya Pradesh, Indore, and under the supervision of the Regional Assistant Commissioner, Sales Tax, Bhopal.

Ware-Housing

To preserve food-grains by accepting stocks in godowns and to provide advance facilities to needy persons through banks against the stocks deposited with the Corporation, an office of the Manager, Madhya Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation, Ganj Basoda, is functioning in the District since January, 1962. The Manager has jurisdiction over Ganj Basoda, Sironj and Kurwai. He is assisted by one Junior Technical Assistant at Ganj Basoda, one Technical Assistant each at Sironj and Kurwai, and the usual staff.

The Manager functions under the immediate control of the Divisional Inspection Officer, Bhopal, and under the over-all control of the Managing Director, Ware-Housing Corporation, Madhya Pradesh, Indore.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The introduction of the present Municipal administration in Vidisha District dates back to the year 1885 when a municipal committee was established at Sironj during the regime of Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan. Incidentally, this is the oldest municipality in the District. Later on, three more municipal bodies were established in the District, namely, Vidisha in 1904, Kurwai in 1917 and Ganj Basoda in 1943. Discussing territory-wise, Ganj Basoda and Vidisha Municipal Committees were originally in Gwalior State and, later on, merged into Madhya Bharat in 1948. Kurwai Municipal Committee was merged into Vidisha after the formation of Madhya Bharat, in 1948. Sironj Municipality was originally in Rajasthan and was integrated into Vidisha District after the formation of new Madhya Pradesh in 1956.

Municipalities in former Madhya Bharat Region

In order to regulate the working and determine the future administration of the Municipalities in the former State of Gwalior a Municipal Act was passed in 1912 which enlarged the scope and powers of Municipal Committees, and introduced the elective principle. In 1913-14, rules were framed for registration of births and deaths in the Municipal area. In the light of the working of these local bodies, a Commission was appointed in 1920-21 to study the administration of the Municipalities, and suggest measures to improve their working and increase their income, and generally to make them useful and effective in improving sanitation, street lighting, maintenance of roads, etc.

The Municipal Act of 1912 was revised in 1936, and a new legislation called the *Qanoon* Municipalities of 1936 was brought into force in June, 1937. An important provision of this Act was that the members of the Board were empowered to elect the president, who had hitherto been nominated.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948, the legislation governing Municipal Committees was reviewed and a new measure called the Madhya Bharat Municipalities Act came into force in January, 1954. By this Act all the Municipalities in the covenanting states in the District, namely, Vidisha, Basoda and Kurwai were brought under a uniform system and they were given well defined powers and functions. An important feature of the Act was that it did away with the system of nomination of members. Special repre-

sentation was also provided for in the Act for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Municipalities were also authorised to sanction their own budget and impose certain taxes.

The Municipalities in the then Vidisha District continued to be governed by the above Act till the passing of the Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act of 1962.

Village Panchayats

In Madhya Bharat region *Panchayats* were the basic institutions of local Government and foundation of all decentralised administration. Gwalior State was among the few to realise that *Panchayats* could do useful work in rural areas. So Panchayat Boards were set up by Maharaja Madhava Rao Sindhia in 1912. The *Panchayats*, had attained a good degree of maturity before the formation of Madhya Bharat. The Madhya Bharat Government gave considerable attention to development of *Panchayats* and passed Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act 1949. This Act provided for a three-tier structure of Panchayats in the District, namely, *Gram Panchayats*, *Kendra Panchayats* and *Mandal Panchayats*. In Sironj, a sub-division of former Rajasthan State, the *Gram Panchayats* were governed by Rajasthan Panchayats Act, of 1954.

Municipalities

There are 4 Municipalities in the District at Vidisha, Basoda, Sironj and Kurwai of which Vidisha is class II, Basoda and Sironj class III and Kurwai class IV. The Municipality at Sironj is the oldest in the District having been mentioned as functioning in 1885.

The Municipality was formed in the year 1904 under the Gwalior State Municipal Act. With a Municipal area of 3.22 sq. km. the population of Vidisha town according to 1971 Census is 43210. From Municipal Committee, the year 1958 to 1964, there were 12 elected and 3 selected members. Later, from 1964-65 there were 18 elected and 4 selected members. The number of wards is 10. Two wards are reserved for Scheduled Castes and one seat is reserved for a lady candidate to be selected by elected members. The President may be elected from outside or from within the members themselves. Two Vice-Presidents, one senior and the other junior, are elected from within the members of the Council. The following Tables show the trend of income and expenditure for the period 1952-71.

Table No. XIV-1

Annual Receipts and Expenditure

Year	Receipts (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1952—53	1,29,486	93,550
1956—57	2,04,180	1,17,850
1960—61	3,55,821	5,99,172
1965—66	4,91,085	4,81,546
1966—67	5,22,012	4,80,928
1967—68	5,36,570	6,16,024
1968—69	6,49,533	6,36,263
1969—70	7,59,127	7,78,158
1970—71	9,95,229	9,34,933
1971—72	10,64,348	10,86,391
1972—73	12,92,836	13,06,311
1973—74	12,08,411	11,22,255

An analysis of the above table reveals that the income as well as the expenditure of the Municipality is constantly rising. This shows that the income and expenditure of the Municipality is balanced which is a sign of improved financial position. The expenditure on some items like Public Health, Public Works, Street lighting is given below :-

Table No. XIV-2

Main Items of Expenditure of Vidisha Municipality

Year	Public Health	Public Works	Veterinary	Street lighting	No. of Street lights
1952—53	5,168	2,956	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1956—57	14,148	40,140	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1960—61	2,444	1,96,455	240	21,124	N.A.
1965—66	1,992	80,541	240	17,297	786
1966—67	2,438	81,560	240	25,495	830
1967—68	4,103	1,41,539	240	38,824	1,013
1968—69	13,977	1,53,154	—	39,099	—
1969—70	15,680	1,38,109	—	50,414	—
1970—71	19,067	2,96,049	—	52,130	—

From the above table it is seen that the public works and street lighting are the main items of expenditure.

A Town/Area Committee was established at Ganj Basoda in 1922 under the Gwalior State Act with the Tahsildar as its President. It became a Municipality in 1943. The new Board was elected in 1943, having Municipal Committee, 7 members and a President and a Vice-President. This Ganj Basoda Board acquired land in Swarup Nagar and built up plots for residential colony. The present Municipal office building was purchased during the tenure of this Board. Prior to this the Municipal office was located in tahsil office. In 1950 new elections were held and during this period the colony work was completed and compensation was also paid. The Board was dissolved in 1952 and an Administrator-cum-Secretary looked after its work. Octroi duty was imposed in the year 1954 and drainage lines were laid in the important areas.

Under the Madhya Bharat Municipalities Act, 1954, fresh elections were conducted in 1954. The new Board consisted of 8 elected and 2 nominated members. The first President of this Board was elected unanimously. The Board started functioning from July, 1954 and its term expired in 1958. The starting of Ramlila Mela and the construction of 10 Harijan quarters for residence were some of its achievements. The general elections of the Municipality were conducted in the year 1958. During this tenure encroachments were removed and land was allotted to houseless persons for construction of houses. The electrification of the town, the installation of hand-pumps for drinking water, construction of cattle-pound and public park, and stone paving of streets were some of its other achievements.

In June 1961, a new Board was elected which enjoyed the longest tenure. It undertook the great task of initiating the long awaited water-supply scheme. The Rajendra Nagar colony was completed and a park named after Maharani Laxmibai was constructed with a rest-house in it. This Board also donated a sum of Rs. 30,000/- as a part of people's contribution for establishment of a degree college. On account of certain irregularities this civic body was dissolved in July, 2, 1967 by an order of the State Government. A Deputy Collector was appointed as the Administrator who took charge on 22nd July, 1967. The population of Ganj Basoda according to the 1971 Census is 20,443 living within a municipal limit of 0.88 sq km. There are 12 wards. In 1960, electricity was first switched on with 160 poles; later this number increased to 176. There are 12 public latrines and 10 urinals. Rent-free quarters have been provided to the Harijan employees. The scheme of water works was nearing completion in the year 1970. Presently drinking water is being supplied from wells and tube-wells. The arrangement for purification of water also exists.

As regards main achievements, during the decade 1961-71, three parks were constructed. In 1960-61, stone-paving was done in the town. In the year 1962-63, a statue of Gandhiji was installed and the Jaya Stambha erected. Asphalt road construction was undertaken in the year 1965-66. A statue of Jawaharlal Nehru of 24" size was also purchased for installation at a suitable site in the town.

The following Table shows the annual income and expenditure of the Committee for a recent period.

Table No. XIV-3
Income and Expenditure

Year	Total Income (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1951—52	12,744	15,548
1956—57	99,578	48,828
1960—61	2,40,659	2,22,713
1965—66	3,98,453	2,44,792
1966—67	2,82,598	2,82,877
1967—68	3,05,191	2,68,815
1968—69	4,17,780	3,19,741
1969—70	5,47,626	5,35,982
1970—71	4,92,146	4,32,012
1971—72	9,48,244	9,71,327
1972—73	10,33,958	9,92,984
1973—74	7,87,761	8,16,202

The Table below shows the expenditure by the Municipal Committee on some selected heads during the recent years.

Table No. XIV-4
Selected Heads of Expenditure—Ganj Basoda Municipality

Year	Public Health	Public Works	Education	Street Lighting	Water Supply
1951—52	8,478	1,045	5,120	N. A.	Record not available
1956—57	21,020	20,210	5,180		
1965—66	1,291	27,574	200	10,628	1,302
1966—67	2,411	15,271	1,440	15,376	2,459
1967—68	1,337	1,476	200	17,310	589
1968—69	90,965	18,067	200	14,492	N. A.
1969—70	1,02,365	1,95,832	3,200	18,670	N. A.
1970—71	1,07,320	58,671	1,800	20,825	30,065

As a result of the territorial adjustment following Reorganisation of States, Sironj Sub-division of the former Rajasthan State came to be included in Vidisha District of new Madhya Pradesh. Consequently, the Municipality at Sironj was placed under the administrative control of the Inspector-General of Municipalities, Madhya Bharat Region, Gwalior. This oldest Municipal Committee was established in the middle of 1885 during the regime of Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan. The work was looked after by an Administrator, and elections of members were not held. There was one Advisory Committee which comprised the *Jagirdars* and *mahajans* as members and it was presided over by the *Nazim*. In 1937 a Municipal Manual was prepared for improvement and regulation of municipal administration. Accordingly, elections to the Council were held for the first time. The Council was assigned a strength of 7 members out of whom 4 were elected and 3 were nominated by the Nawab.

In 1941, elections were again held for the Municipal Council. The strength of the Committee was raised to 12 members, 9 being elected and 3 nominated. Elections were again held in 1944 for the third time and in 1948 for the fourth time. After these elections the territory was merged into Rajasthan State.

Next elections were held in 1952 under the Rajasthan Town Municipal Act. This Committee installed octroi from 9th January, 1953. During this term the annual income of the Council had reached upto Rs. 55,000.

Its population, according to 1971 census was 22,413 persons. Although no statutory provision regarding the classification of town municipalities existed in the Act, this Municipality had been placed in category V on the basis of income, by an executive order of the Government.

The Committee now consisted of 14 members of whom 12 were elected and 2 nominated. Thus there were no selected members as in the case of Madhya Bharat region. Although no reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or for women was provided for in the Act, it was clearly implied that the nominated members should represent either the backward classes specified in the Act or the female sex or both as situation was found. In 1959, out of the two nominated seats, one was held by a woman and the other by a *Harijan*. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were elected by the members of the Board from amongst themselves and if the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman were not elected within a reasonable time he was nominated by Government from amongst the members of the Board. The members hold office for a term of 3 years. This term is extendable by the

Government upto four years. The committee was dissolved due to irregularities in 1960 and its functions were taken over by the Administrator. The functioning of the Municipal Committee was regulated as follows:- (1) Tonks Rate Regulations from 1885-1950. (2) Rajasthan Town Municipal Act from 1951 to 1955.

The taxes levied by the Municipal Committee were octroi, terminal tax, wheel tax, tax on cattle, toll tax, taxes on trades and callings and street lighting tax, etc. The following table shows the Receipts and Expenditure for some selected years between 1952-53 to 1969-70.

Table No. XIV-5
Receipts and Expenditure

Year	Total Receipt (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1952-53	29,636	7,543
1956-57	69,653	27,073
1960-61	1,58,996	1,28,428
1965-66	2,41,961	2,36,504
1966-67	2,85,151	2,94,826
1967-68	2,19,308	2,59,263
1968-69	2,76,488	2,97,005
1969-70	2,79,532	—
1971-72	6,44,445	6,50,499
1972-73	5,97,949	5,79,544
1973-74	6,60,903	6,79,731

The Municipality was established in the year 1917. The Committee consisted of 18 members during the regime of the old princely state. It is classified in class III(B) now. The population of Kurwai Municipal Committee, town, according to 1971 Census, is 6,811 and the area 0.391 sq. km. In the erstwhile Kurwai State the President was nominated by the Government. The Kurwai State Municipal Act came into force from 1939 according to which a Board of 16 members was constituted, consisting of 11 non-official members, who in turn included 2 *Mahajans*, 4 farmers and 4 others besides 2 *Peshawars* and 2 *Mut-farraks*. The President and the Vice-President were elected from amongst these members. The quorum was of three-fourths of the total strength of the members. Thus from January 1939 to January 1954, this civic body functioned according to this set-up.

The Madhya Bharat Municipal Act 1954, was applied to this council in 1954. The President and the Vice-President were elected from amongst these

members. Their tenure was for 3 years. Under the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Act 1961 which came into force from February 1962, the number of elected members was 6, which included one from Scheduled Tribes. A woman was also selected by the elected members to give due representation to female population. Thus there were in all 7 members. The number of wards was, however, 6. One President and 2 Vice-Presidents were elected by these elected members. The Municipality had an area of 0.39 sq. km. and a population of 6,811 persons in 1971.

Electricity was introduced before Independence, in the town and there are 200 street lights. The number of public latrines is 12. The sewage is collected and compost pits dug by the Municipality. The implementation of water-supply scheme and underground drainage scheme were under the consideration of State Government. At present water from the river and the wells is utilized for domestic consumption. The following table shows the total receipts and expenditure.

Table No. XIV-6
Receipts and Expenditure

Year	Receipts (in Rs.)	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1952—53	15,461	14,812
1956—57	39,500	24,962
1960—61	84,209	71,290
1965—66	65,798	47,866
1966—67	94,229	91,335
1967—68	1,02,918	72,113
1968—69	1,19,857	76,731
1969—70	1,32,131	1,28,023
1970—71	99,713	94,484
1971—72	85,368	83,625
1972—73	1,03,091	85,784
1973—74	1,11,423	1,11,264

The main items of expenditure of the Municipality are shown in the following table.

Table No. XIV-7
Expenditure on Miscellaneous Items

Year	Public Health	Public Works	Veterinary	Street lighting
1952—53	296	5,512	N.A.	1,681
1956—57	320	4,389	N.A.	7,435
1960—61	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	4,594
1965—66	8,242	667	110	9,817
1966—67	10,609	519	119	10,308
1967—68	9,109	1,931	90	10,180
1968—69	10,064	11,315	—	9,988
1969—70	10,316	39,472	—	—
1970—71	9,826	2,532	—	—

Supply of Drinking Water in the District

Vidisha has a water-supply scheme run by the Public Health Engineering Department, the source being the river Betwa. No other town in the District has water works at present. In all other places people utilise water from wells. In a few villages people take water from rivers or *nalas* also. Water supply schemes at Ganj Basoda and Kurwai are in different stages of completion. These schemes are undertaken by the respective municipalities.

District and Local Boards

Before the formation of regular Panchayats in Vidisha District under the Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act which was brought into force on the 26th January, 1952, District¹ Boards used to function which were governed by Panchayat Board's Act, Samvat 1979 (A.D. 1923) in Bhilsa District. The Kurwai Block area consisted of villages of four States, i. e. Kurwai, Gwalior, Pathari and Bhopal. In Kurwai State, Panchayat Boards were functioning at Sherwasa, Sehore and Lapra and in Gwalior State in village Bhonwarasa. Groups of villages were put under these Panchayat Boards. Every village was entitled to send one Panch. There were in all 5 to 10 members. The election was conducted by the direct voting system under the supervision of the State Sessions

1. Vidisha District Census Handbook, 1961, LXVI-VII.

Court. The *Sarpanch* was also elected by direct voting. These Boards had had the power to admit civil suits upto Rs. 100/- and also petty criminal cases. They were authorised to impose a fine upto Rs. 30/. The final decision, in any case, was of the Sessions Judge. The *Sarpanch* acted as a representative of the Sessions Judge. The sources of income as well as the powers and duties of these Boards were very limited. The Panchayats were established in 1951.

Panchayats

The system of administering justice through a body of "Village elders" or a village *Panchayat*, as we call it now, has an ancient heritage. The decision of the five elderly persons of a village used to be sanctified in tradition and was on a par with what in modern times is called a legal fiction attaching to the awards of the courts of justice. Miscarriage of justice was never suspected and the decision of a *Panchayat* was universally respected. Failure to submit to the award of the village elders, carried with it a good deal of odium which used to lower down the delinquent or the judgement-debtor in the esteem of persons, amongst whom he had to live every moment of his life.

Panchayats in some form or the other were functioning in all the progressive Indian States before Independence, including the present Vidisha District areas comprising a part of the erstwhile Gwalior State, Kurwai State and Sironj Sub-Division of former Rajasthan State.

In Madhya Bharat region *Gram Panchayats* on three-tier basis were established under the Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act of 1949. The *Gram Panchayat* was in existence for a village or a group of adjoining villages, with an aggregate population of 1000 or above and area roughly coinciding with the Patwari Halka, Kendra Panchayat at the Block¹ level and Mandal Panchayat at the district level.

The Panchs of the *Gram Panchayat* were elected directly on the basis of universal suffrage, adult franchise and secret ballot with due protection to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women. The *Kendra Panchayat* was an indirectly elected body, its electorate being the Panchas of *Gram Panchayats*. This body had supervisory functions as well as some basic functions which were performed through the agency of *Gram Panchayats*. The *Mandal Panchayat* comprised *Sarpanchas* of the *Kendra Panchayats* and two elected Panchas with a Government officer as its Secretary. It had financial control over the *Gram Panchayats* and certain basic functions like management of fairs,

1. Report of the Rural Local Self-Government Committee; 1957, p. 28.

etc. Thus the proposed scheme of Panchayati Raj with three-tier system was already established in Madhya Bharat region, to which this district belonged, before the States Reorganisation.

The number of members of the Gram Panchayat ranged from 5 to 15, there being one member for every 200 persons roughly. When the number of voters of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was less than 45 per cent of the total voters, seats were reserved for them. In addition, one woman member was also co-opted by the elected Panchas and if they failed to co-opt, the Government nominated the woman Panch. The term of the Gram Panchayat was three years.

The Sarpanch and the Up-Sarpanch were elected by the Panchas of *Village Panchayats* from amongst themselves and their term was also 3 years.

Sironj Sub-Division of this district was in Rajasthan till 1956 and it came into Vidisha District after Reorganisation of States. Soon after the formation of Rajasthan in 1948, the Panchayat Raj Ordinance was passed, the significant feature of which was the introduction of the system of group *Panchayats*. A unified legislation (Rajasthan Panchayats Act) came into force with effect from 1st January 1954. Under this Act a *Gram Panchayat* was established for a village or a group of villages for a population ranging between 3,000 and 5,000. Generally, one *Gram Panchayat* included 8 to 12 villages. A *Tahsil Panchayat* was established to supervise and control the *Gram Panchayats* in its jurisdiction. The number of Panchas of a *Gram Panchayat* ranged from 5 to 15 and that of the *Tahsil Panchayat* ranged from 6 to 8.

The election to a *Gram Panchayat* was held on the basis of adult suffrage and the mode of voting was by show of hands. If no member of the Scheduled Castes was elected the State Government nominated such a person. The *Sarpanch* was directly elected by the electorate while the *Up-Sarpanch* was elected by the *Panchas*. The term of office of a *Panchayat* was 3 years but the State Government was empowered to extend the term from time to time not exceeding one year in the aggregate. The Government gave these *Panchayats* grants for carrying out public utility works, provided the *Panchayats* undertook to collect and contribute half the amount of the estimated expenditure. The *Tahsil Panchayats* acted as an appellate court over the *Gram Panchayats* and also supervised their working. The budget was approved by the Directorate of

Panchayats. In this region, 19 *Gram Panchayats* and 2 *Tahsil Panchayats* were working in 1959.

The *Panchayats'* finances constitute Government grants-in-aid (at the rate of six paise per rupee of land revenue) of house and light taxes, fines, sales-proceeds, proceeds/fees on *hat bazars*, cattle pounds, etc. A cess of three paise per rupee is levied in the land revenue. All able bodied persons are required to work for five days (eight hours daily) in a year or to pay in cash the amount of wages to be determined by the *Panchayats*. The main heads of expenditure are Administration, Education, Social Education, Water-Supply, Sanitation, Agricultural Development, etc. The income and expenditure of *Panchayats* are given in the following table.

Table No. XIV-8
Income and Expenditure of Panchayats

Year	Income	Expenditure
1965—66	1,31,684	96,325
1966—67	5,92,987	4,47,951
1967—68	7,45,873	6,07,735
1971—72	26,53,253	18,40,190
1972—73	17,69,006	16,27,747

A group of two *Panchayats* was provided with an official called the Group Secretary of the *Panchayats* to carry out the decision of the *Panchayats* and also to maintain books of account, register, etc. The Government gave grant-in-aid as reimbursement of pay of group secretaries. After the passing of Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962, and a partial implementation thereof, *Gram Panchayats'* elections were held for the first time in December, 1964, and again in December, 1970. In 1970 in all, 191 *Panchayats* were established.

The details as regards the number of *Panchayats* and members are given below :—

Table No. XIV-9

The Number of Panchayats and Members

Year	Panchayats	Members
1950—51	184	1,986
1955—56	202	2,344
(at the end of I Plan)		
1960—61	202	2,344
(at the end of II Plan)		
1965—66	202	2,344
(at the end of III Plan)		
1966—67	190	3,231
1967—68	190	3,231
1968—69	—	—
1969—70	—	—

All the villages have been covered by the *Panchayats*. A major achievement is the electrification of the villages. The development activities undertaken by the *Panchayats* in the District during the first three Five Year Plans are as under.

Name of the Items	No. of Items completed
1. Construction of School Buildings	178
2. „ Panchayat Bhawans	35
3. „ School-cum-Panchayat Bhavans	96
4. „ Approach roads	235
5. „ Rest Houses	11
6. Digging of wells for drinking water	533
7. Repair of sanitary wells	524
8. „ „ Tanks	57
9. Installation of irrigation pumps	14
10. „ „ Hand-pumps	203
11. „ „ Wind-mills	4
12. Starting Reading rooms	26
13. „ Radio centres	210
14. „ Rural Radio Forum	19
15. „ Libraries	119

Nyaya Panchayats

With a view to lessening litigation, reducing the cost of litigation and making justice within the easy reach of rural masses, Nyaya Panchayats have been established for an area of village level worker's Circle. The details regarding the Nyaya Panchayats have been given in Chapter XII on Law and Order and Justice.

Janpada Panchayats

The election for Janpada Panchayats were held in December 1970 and 7 Janpada Panchayats were established at Vidisha, Nateran, Lateri, Basoda, Kurwai, Gyaraspur and Sironj. The establishment of Zila Panchayats is yet to take place in the District.



CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

Comprising a number of erstwhile states or parts thereof, Vidisha District in general and Vidisha town in particular has been a centre of education and culture from time immemorial. The glorious past of Vidisha town is evident from the *Puranas*, *Sanskrit Kavyas*, coins of the Nagas and Guptas, various inscriptions and the lofty stone statues still extant and preserved.

According to the Puranic tradition the region was once under a branch of the Haihayas which was known as Pradyut dynasty, also called Dasharna. The *Skanda Purana* refers to Vidisha as a *tirth* (holy place) which should be visited after visiting Someshwar. The *Ramayana* informs us that Shatrughna, the youngest brother of Rama, expelled the Yadavas from the region and appointed his son Subahu, as the Governor of the Province. Rama himself had come over to this region during his *vanavasa*. The famous *ashrama* of Chyavan Rishi was also said to be located here. It is believed that Maharshi Balmiki had also established his *ashrama* near Madagan (Lateri Tahsil), where instruction on *Vedic* lines in a number of subjects and arts¹ was given. Similarly, it is also claimed that Lateri village and its surrounding forest area were once the site of the famous Rishi Jamdagni's *ashram* where a number of subjects were taught, namely, *Purana*, *Brahma Vidya*, *Jyotish*, *Nritya*, *Ayurveda*, *Agneye-shashtra*, etc.

In olden times Vesnagar (Besnagar) was situated between the rivers Bes (Halali) and the Vetrawati (Betwa). Tradition connects the town with Raja Rukmangad, who was the ruler of the place. His son, Dharmaraj, was a famous educationist of his times.

It has been discovered that a lofty Sun Temple was constructed at Vidisha sometime in V. S. 935 (A. D. 992) on the bank of the river Vetrawati. The gates of the Temple were engraved with the *shlokas* of ■ *Kavya* composed by Chittrappa.

1. Rajmal Jain, *Vidisha Vaibhava*, p. 269; Ghanshyam Sharan Bhargava, *Sironj ka Itihas*, p. 120.

Vidisha has also been a seat of Jainism. Shitalnathji, the tenth *Thirthankar*, was born at this place. Vidisha town has been mentioned as Jagdalpur in the old Jain Texts. During Maurya and Gupta rule, Vidisha town was intimately connected with the meteoric heights of educational, cultural and literary eminence of Sanchi, a place nearly 10 km. from Vidisha. Sanskrit was then the medium of instruction. We find the glory of Vidisha described in the works of Kalidasa, Bhasa and Dandi. The hero of the drama *Malavikagnimitra*, Agnimitra Sunga, was the ruler of Vidisha. Pushyamitra had performed *Ashvamedha Yagnya* at Vidisha. The coins discovered at this place illustrate that the ruler was a great patron of arts. *Meghaduta* of Kalidasa gives us a detailed description of the town. The said description leads us to believe that Kalidasa spent some years of his young age in this town.

During the regime of Paramara and Chalukya rulers, Sanskrit education became very popular. Alberuni described Vidisha as Mahabalistan. In 1239 A. D. Iltutmish, during his invasion of Vidisha, demolished Vijaya temple. Raja Shivprasad "Sitare Hind", a renowned literary figure of Hindi, gave a good description of this Mandir of Vidisha. Again in 1290 A. D., Alauddin Khalji captured Vidisha and destroyed a number of temples and idols.

According to Memoirs of Babur, Silhadi Rajput was the ruler of this place in 1527 A. D. Bahadur Shah of Gujarat looted the town in 1532 and compelled the ruler to embrace Islam.

During Akbar's reign, Vidisha was a part of the *Jagir* of Mirja Khan. In 1682, Aurangzeb converted Vijay Mandir and other temples into mosques and renamed the town as Alamgirpur after his own name, though it never came into general use.

During the Muslim rule in India, the region had, as elsewhere, a number of *maqatabs* and *madataras* for the spread of education among the masses. The medium of instruction was Urdu and also Arabic and Persian. The Vijay Mandir of the town, which had been converted into a mosque, called Beejamandal, was used as a *maqatab* during this period.

In the 18th century, Bhilsa passed into the hands of the Marathas and remained with them since then. The early Maratha rule offers no definite evidences of an established system of education in the region. It can, however, be conjectured that the task of education was then entrusted to the religious institutions of the region.

Beginning of Modern Education

A turning point in the field of education was reached after the advent of the British in India. The Charter of 1813 made a provision of one lakh rupees a year for the educational upliftment of British India. This provision also encouraged the princely states to patronize education in their own territories. Sindhias, therefore, made efforts to open schools for the education of the people. In 1853, during the ministry of Dinkar Rao, some schools were established in various districts of Gwalior State. In 1854, the teaching of English was introduced, but it was of an elementary nature. By this time, there was no English School in Vidisha District. In 1863, Sir Michael Filose was ordered to form a regular Education Department in the State. Sir Michael Filose also encouraged Sanskrit education in the State.

By 1886, there was only one school in Vidisha town. It was a private school, housed in Balaji Mandir of the town. Hindi and Sanskrit were mainly taught in this school.

In 1887, the State established a lower primary school in Vidisha town. This school was then housed in the old Tahsil Building. Instructions in Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian and Marathi subjects were given here. The school was converted into an upper primary school in 1890-91. It was later upgraded to a high school in 1909. Lower primary schools were also established in rural areas by the then State. By 1904, the number of such schools in Vidisha and Basoda *parganas* rose to 18, attended by 641 students. Basoda also had a middle school during this period. The Headmaster of Basoda School, Babu Govardhanlal, was rewarded by the State for his meritorious services to the institution. Babu Govardhanlal was also a litterateur in his own right who wrote *Sahitya Bhaskar* and *Purti Pramod* during this period. The *Zamindars* of the District also ran certain private schools in the rural areas. In 1912, Vidisha High School was again converted into a middle school. During the years 1913-35, the rural areas of Vidisha and Basoda *parganas* of the District had 15 and 22 Government lower primary schools, and 31 and 4 aided primary schools, respectively. The languages taught in the schools were Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit and Marathi.

In 1935, Seth Lakhmichand Shitabrai of Vidisha donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the educational activities of the town. The sum was utilised for establishing a high school in the town. It was then called Seth Lakhmichand Sitabrai Jain High School, Vidisha. Since 1940, the Government started sanctioning a grant for the educational institutions. In 1954, the Jain High School was upgraded to an Intermediate College, and the Government grant was

enhanced accordingly. The subjects of Science faculty were taught in this College. In 1958, the College was converted into a Degree College. The Trust also established a primary school in 1936, which was later upgraded to a middle school in 1956. In 1918, the Muslims of the town established an institution, called Anjuman-Muinul Islam, which established an Urdu primary school in the town. The school has got a building of its own and receives annual Government grants.

By the year 1941, the Basoda and Vidisha *parganas* of the District had 34 and 31 schools attended by 863 and 1,541, students, respectively. In 1942, nine Government lower and upper schools were opened in the two *parganas*. In Basoda *Pargana*, 7 primary schools were also opened by the private bodies in rural areas during the same year.

Progress of Education in different States or parts thereof

The part of the District ruled by Kurwai Nawab, had no State schools till the end of the nineteenth century. There were only some *magatabs* housed in the mosques of the region. In 1901, a Vernacular primary school was started with the funds collected by the people, but was closed soon due to financial crisis. Again in 1904, the people collected funds and started the primary school with the assistance of the State. In 1906 the Kurwai School had 15 students on the rolls. The school was upgraded to a lower middle school in 1916 and to an Anglo-Vernacular Middle School in 1917 A. D. Till 1920, this was the only school in the town. In 1920 eight primary schools were opened with the funds collected by the people and the State grants were sanctioned for these schools. In 1922, three more primary schools were started by the people of the State with Government assistance. Thus, the State had one Anglo-Vernacular middle school and 10 primary schools by the end of the year 1922.

The progress of education in the State during the year 1901-41 is shown in the table given below:—

Table No. XVI
Progress of Education in Kurwai State (1901-41)

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
1901	1	39	1
1911	1	61	2
1921	9	191	10
1931	5	62	7
1941	8	301	12

After 1941, three more schools were established in the State. At the time of merger of the State in Madhya Bharat in 1948, the State had one Anglo-Vernacular middle school at Kurwai and ten primary schools at Bareth, Rajpur, Layara, Serwasa, Gudawal, Mal Bamora, Mahbubpur, Becladhana, Sihora and Sirnota. The number of students and teachers in all these schools was 541 and 26, respectively.

In 1908, the first regular school was started at Pathari with the funds collected from the people of the State. The number of students on the rolls was only 29 in that year. Another school was started at Kankar Khedi in 1918-19. Both these schools were reported to have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 364 in 1918-19. By 1920, there were only three schools in the State. The progress of the education in the State during 1901-41 is tabulated below :—

Table No. XV-2
Progress of Education in Pathari State (1901-41)

Year	No. of Primary Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Expenditure (Rs.)
1901	—	—	—	—
1911	1	28	1	141
1921	3	70	4	384
1931	3	63	4	376
1941	2	48	3	289

At the time of the merger of the State in Madhya Bharat Union in 1948, the State had only two schools having 3 teachers and 47 students. The annual expenditure of these schools was then Rs. 600. In the same year, the Praja Mandal had established a girls school at Pathari with 24 girls on the roll.

In 1904, Nawab Haidar Ali Khan established a school at Haidargarh called the Haidari School. It was a primary school and the State granted a fixed amount of Rs. 650 per annum to it. Another school for the instruction of Arabic was also established there in 1919-20. Both these schools were, however, closed in 1944 due to financial crisis. The number of students and teachers in 1940, in both these schools was 71 and 2, respectively.

Till 1906, there was no regular educational institution in the State. In 1907, a school was opened at Muhammadgarh with the assistance of the State Government. In 1917, another primary school was opened at Deyapur. Till 1940, there were only two schools in the State with the strength of 2 teachers. In that year the number of students in these schools was 56. Immediately before the merger of eleven villages of Peeklon Tahsil of Bhopal State in Vidisha District, in the year 1948, a school was opened at Peeklon. It then had a strength of 25 students and one teacher.

The first primary school in the region was established at Sironj in 1887. It was then a State-aided institution. Later it was taken over by the State. By 1901, the number of Government and private schools rose to 4 and 2, respectively. In 1911, the number of Government schools was 7. In 1919 an Urdu school at Anandpur and a primary school at Siyalpur were also established. In 1920-21, four more schools were established in the rural areas of the region. Thus by the end of 1920-21, the number of Government schools in the two tahsils (Sironj and Lateri) rose to 13. Besides these schools, there were three private schools in the rural areas. In 1930 an organisation called the Riyazul Madaris, was founded at Sironj which established an Urdu school in the town. In the same year two more primary schools were opened in the rural area.

In 1936, the school at Sironj was upgraded to a high school and a girls primary school was also opened. Arrangements were also made for the instruction of English in these two institutions.

According to the Census of 1941, Sironj, Lateri and Siyalpur tahsils had 15 primary schools, one girls school and one high school. In 1942, eight more primary schools were opened in the region. By the end of 1943, Sironj and Lateri tahsils of the erstwhile Tonk State had 23 primary schools with 694 students and 28 teachers. The number of girl students and female teachers in Sironj Girls School was 127 and 4, respectively. The High School at Sironj then had 350 students and 18 teachers. In 1947-48, three new primary schools were also opened in the region. The table given below shows the number of schools, students and teachers in the region at the time of its merger (1948) in Rajasthan.

Table No. XV-3
Education in Sironj Sub-Division of former Tonk State (1948)

Category of Schools	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
Primary	26	632	28
Girls Primary	1	76	3
High School	1	337	18
Total	28	1,045	49

During the period 1949-56, the schools of the region were under the administrative control of the Rajasthan Government. The First Five Year Plan period witnessed the opening of a number of new schools and upgradation of a few old ones in the region. The number of schools, teachers and students in the region at the time of its merger in Madhya Pradesh (1956) are shown below :

Table No. XV-4
Education in Sironj Region, 1956

Category of Schools	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
Primary	53	1,668	62
Middle	2	238	18
Girls Middle	1	139	6
High School	1	313	15
Total	57	2,358	101

The onward march of education will be reviewed in respective sections subsequently in the Chapter.

The District Education Officer, Vidisha, looks after the school education in the District. He is assisted by a number of supervisory staff. The details of the organisational set-up can be seen in Chapter XIII—Other Departments, of this volume.

Literacy and Educational Standards

As Vidisha comprises parts or whole of certain erstwhile States, the growth of literacy and educational standards of the people in the respective areas, prior to their accession or merger in the Union of States, is being traced separately.

Educationally a backward District, Vidisha as it existed during the twenties of the present century had a literate population of 5,784 persons (5,398 males and 386 females). Thus only 2.03 per cent (4.11% males and 0.032% females) of the people were literates in the two *parganas* of Vidisha and Basoda. The decade of 1921-31, was a period of slow progress in the field of education. While the literate population increased to 7,496 (6,790 males and 706 females) in 1931, their percentage rose to 3.18 (5.51% males and 0.62% females) from 2.03 per cent a decade ago. The rural oriented economy was, therefore, too slow to be awakened to the prudence of education. Moreover, low female literacy, a universal truth, owing to the reasons deeply imbibed in our socio-religious outlook is a serious drag on the over all literacy in the District. By the year 1941, a further increase in the literacy percentage of the region was recorded. With 6.61 per cent (11.14 per cent males and 1.46 per cent females), considerable improvement was noted amongst the males, though females were much behind in this respect.

In 1911, only 361 persons (346 males and 15 females) were literate in this region, constituting only 2 per cent of the total population. The Census of 1921 recorded a decrease in the literacy percentage of the people. Out of 19,851 persons (10,307 males and 9,544 females) only 383 persons (369 males and 14 females) were literates. This number was only 1.97 per cent (3.29 per cent males and 0.14 per cent females) of the total population. In 1931, the number of literates increased to 550 constituting 2.49 per cent (4.47 per cent males and 0.32 per cent females) of the total population. In 1941, the percentage of literacy further rose to 2.79 (4.61 per cent males and 0.65 per cent females).

The Census of 1921 recorded 3,404 persons (1,741 males and 1,663 females) in the region. Out of these, only 101 persons (98 males and 3 females) were literates and constituted 2.96 per cent (5.62 per cent males and 0.17 per cent females) of the total population. But by 1931, there was a considerable decline in the literate population and, consequently the percentage declined to 2.61 (3.5 percent males and 0.9 per cent females) of the total

population. The following decade, however, saw a considerable spurt, and literate population of 4,171 persons (2,208 males and 1,963 females) constituting 5.39 per cent (8.74 per cent males and 1.62 per cent females) of the population was recorded.

Since 1921 when a literacy percentage of 2.97 (5.7 per cent males and 0.15 per cent females) was recorded it advanced to 3.16 per cent (5.09 per cent males and 0.23 per cent females) of the total population in 1931. The Census of 1941 marked an increase in the literate population to 99 persons (94 males and 5 females) against 84 in 1931, consequently registering an increase of literacy percentage to 3.42 (5.95 per cent males and 0.38 per cent females).

In 1921, these villages had a total population of 4,123 persons (2,138 males and 1,985 females). Out of these, only 191 persons (169 males and 22 females) were literates. The literacy percentage in these villages was thus only 4.63 (9.16 per cent males and 1.5 per cent females). In 1931, the total population of the villages decreased to 3,202 (1,638 males and 1,565 females). Out of these, only 69 persons (61 males and 8 females) were literates. The percentage of literates also thus decreased to 2.15 (3.72 per cent males and 0.51 per cent females). According to the Census of 1941, the total population of these villages was 3,488 persons (1,762 males and 1,726 females) and the literacy percentage improved to 2.75 (4.65 per cent males and 0.8 per cent females) in that year.

After the formation of Madhya Bharat State in 1948, some of the above regions were merged in Vidisha District, and, later, in 1956, Sironj and Lateri *parganas* of Rajasthan also formed part of the reconstituted Vidisha District. The picture of literacy thus emerging in 1951, 1961 and 1971 is given in the following table :-

Table No. XV-5
Literacy Percentages in Vidisha District (1951, 1961 and 1971)

	Literacy Percentage								
	1951			1961			1971		
	Popula- tion	Males	Females	Popula- tion	Males	Females	Popula- tion	Males	Females
Total	7.45	12.26	2.19	13.50	21.20	4.87	18.53	27.48	8.38
Rural	4.83	8.70	0.60	9.76	16.81	1.88	14.04	22.80	4.15
Urban	28.23	40.57	14.79	38.31	49.69	25.08	45.83	55.56	34.54

The above table reflects the vast strides made in the field of education during the two Plan periods. By the end of 1971, the literacy touched a new height in all areas, both among males and females. The literate population was enumerated as 121,984 (96,115 males and 25,869 females), constituting 18.53 per cent (27.48 per cent males and 8.38 per cent females) of the total population in 1971.

Spread of Education Among Women

The District under the Gwalior State (Vidisha and Basoda parganas) marks a gradual increase in the literacy percentage of women. From 0.05, the literacy percentage gradually increased to 0.32 in 1921, 0.62 in 1931 and 1.46 in 1941. In 1904, the girls primary school at Vidisha had 101 students on rolls taught by 3 lady teachers. Besides this, nearly 83 girls attended the boys school of Vidisha. A girls school at Basoda was also opened in 1908 A. D. The number of girl students and lady teachers in the school was 41 and 2, respectively. In 1912 a branch of the old girls school of Vidisha was opened in another part of the town. It then enrolled 53 girls who were taught by two lady teachers. In rural areas, there were no separate schools for girls till 1943. In 1943-44, the girls schools at Vidisha and Basoda were upgraded to double upper primary schools. English was introduced as an optional subject in these schools. In the same year, three girls primary schools were also opened in the rural areas of the tract. By the end of 1947, there were only two double upper primary schools and four girls primary schools in the region.

In Kurwai State, the literate women were very insignificant in number. From 15 in 1911, their number rose to 34 in 1931 and 89 in 1941. There were no separate girls schools in the tract till the year 1947.

In Pathari State too, the literacy percentage among women remained very low. From 0.17 per cent in 1921, it rose to 1.62 per cent in 1941. There was no separate school for girls till the year 1947. In 1948 an attempt was made to start a private school with the funds collected from the people of the tract. It then had 24 students, taught by a lady teacher. The school was, however, closed after three months due to lack of funds. In 1937, a girls primary school was started at Sironj. In 1941, the number of girls and lady teachers in the school was 149 and 4, respectively.

1. Vidisha District Census Hand Book, Pt. X-A & B, 1971 (Hindi), pp. 129, 131 and 133.

At the time of the merger of States the tract covered by the present District of Vidisha had only two double upper primary schools and five primary schools for girls' education.

Prior to the introduction of the First Five Year Plan, the double upper schools of Vidisha and Basoda were converted into girls middle schools. In 1946, some girls primary schools were opened at Kurwai and other places also. Thus by the end of the first year of First Plan, there were two middle schools and seven primary schools for girls in the District. By the last year (1955-56) of the First Plan period, the number of middle schools remained 2 but that of primary schools increased to 42 in the District. In 1955 a private school was also opened at Sironj by Shri Samant Bhadra Jain Parmarthik Trust.

In 1958, a private girls high school was started at Basoda which was later taken over by the Government in 1960. The girls primary schools at Lateri, Kurwai, Vidisha (Madhavganj Branch) and Shamshabad were upgraded to middle schools in the year 1957-58, 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64, respectively. In 1960-61, the girls middle schools at Vidisha and Sironj and the girls high school of Basoda were converted into higher secondary schools. Thus by the end of the third year of the Third Five Year Plan, there were 50 primary schools, 5 middle schools and 3 higher secondary schools for girls in the District. In 1962-63, the number of girl students and teachers in these schools was 7,002 and 169, respectively. The expenditure incurred on these institutions in that year was Rs. 3,29,303. Efforts were also made to admit girls in the schools under the Compulsory Education Scheme.

In the field of Social Education, Mahila Kalyan Kendras, Adult Education Centres and Tailoring and Weaving Centres were established in the District. The total number of such centres in the rural and urban areas of the District during the year 1963-64 was 12. The most important among these centres was Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vidisha, which has been functioning since 1956. District branch of Women Education Parishad, Madhya Pradesh, also promotes the cause of education for women in the District.

The following table gives us an idea of the progress of education among women during the last two decades :

Table No. XV-6

Progress of Education among Women (1951-1970)

Year	Category	Primary	Middle	High/Higher Secondary
1951	No. of Schools	7	2	1
	No. of Students	831	185	19
	No. of Teachers	15	15	2
	Expenditure	13,240	17,912	—
1956	No. of Schools	42	2	1
	No. of Students	2,519	194	29
	No. of Teachers	53	24	—
	Expenditure	62,719	52,417	—
1961	No. of Schools	45	3	3
	No. of Students	1,612	659	536
	No. of Teachers	98	27	23
	Expenditure	50,315	26,955	53,811
1966-67	No. of Schools	55	11	3
	No. of Students	8,685	1,411	494
	No. of Teachers	179	52	25
	Expenditure	—	—	—
1969-70	No. of Schools	55	12	3
	No. of Students	9,700	1,797	888
	No. of Teachers	204	61	29
	Expenditure	—	—	—

Spread of Education Among Backward Classes and Tribes

In Vidisha and Basoda *parganas* of former Gwalior State, as in other parts, efforts were made to spread education among the tribes and backward classes. In 1944, schools were opened for these people with the public funds and Government grants were sanctioned for their smooth functioning. During this year, the number of students and teachers in these schools was 84 and 2, respectively. In 1946, the school at Basoda was closed due to its mismanagement and a Government school was converted into a *Harijan* School. Again in 1947, the school at Basoda was made an ordinary school and the admission of the students of these classes was declared open for all the schools of the town. In 1948, orders were passed for the freeship of the students of these classes in all Government schools. Besides this facility, they were also awarded scholarships and stipends for their education. The table given below shows the number of scholarship awarded to the primary and middle school students and the amounts spent during the years from 1951-52 to 1955-56 :

Table No. XV-7

Scholarships awarded to Primary and Middle School Students (1951-56)

Year	No. of Scholarships awarded	Amount spent (Rs.)
1951-52	892	3,928
1952-53	935	5,514
1953-54	837	2,825
1954-55	754	4,600
1955-56	470	2,200

(Note :—Figures for Sironj Sub-Division have not been included)

After the Reorganisation of States in 1956, the number of students of these classes increased in the educational institutions of the District. The table given below shows the scholarships awarded and the number of these students categorywise.

Table No. XV-8

Scholarships awarded to the Students of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (1956 and 61)

Schools	1956		1961	
	No. of Students	Amount of Scholarship	No. of Students	Amount of Scholarship
Primary/Junior				
Basic	736	2,055	1,610	900
Middle	105	2,124	126	3,768
High Schools/ Higher Secondary	—	—	—	—
Schools				
Collegiate	—	—	—	2,352
Training	—	—	—	1,000
Institution	—	—	—	—
Engineering & Polytechnic	—	—	—	4,113

During the period, hostels were also opened at Vidisha, Basoda and Sironj for *Harijan* students. During the year 1963-64, there were 34 *Adivasi* and *Harijan* teachers in the various schools of the District.

General Education

As a result of the policy of planned development after Independence, Vidisha District too enjoyed the fruits of the three successive Five Year Plans till 1965-66 and annual plans thereafter. Vigorous strides were made during this period and various schemes of far reaching dimensions were launched. The following table reflects the educational progress achieved and as existed in 1963-64.

Table No. XV-9
Progress of Education (1963-64)

S. No.	Category of Educational Institutions	No. of Educational Institutions	No. of Students enrolled	No. of Teachers
1.	Pre-Primary Schools	3	258	8
2.	Primary/Jr. Basic Schools/Compulsory Schools	550	27,039	767
3.	Middle/Sr. Basic Schools	39	7,218	380
4.	Higher Secondary Schools	12	3,635	214
5.	Degree Colleges	2	431	25
6.	Engineering Colleges	1	335	23
7.	Polytechnics	1	275	18
8.	Sanskrit Schools	1	31	1
9.	Teachers' Training Institutions	2	193	16
10.	Music Schools	1	30	2
11.	Adult Education Centres	25	—	—

As a result of a tremendous upsurge in all categories of education, it was estimated that ratio of population per school came down from 2,402 in 1951 to 950 in 1961. Similarly, population-teacher ratio also narrowed from 1,205 in 1951 to 440 in 1961. Considerable expansion was recorded in expenditure per school, per student and per person. While in the first the expenditure per school increased from Rs. 6,490 in 1951 to Rs. 17,109 in 1961, the second and third category improved from Rs. 13 to 39 in 1961 and from Rs. 0.27 in 1951 to Rs. 1.80 in 1961, respectively.

Pre-primary Education

The Pre-Primary education can be said to have received Government's attention in 1949 when the first pre-primary school was established at Vidisha.

In that year the number of students was 40 and that of teachers 2. The expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 1,485 in that year.

Since then, efforts were also made by the citizens or organisations to establish pre-primary schools. The Jain Shishu Mandir at Vidisha was thus started in 1950, which is run by Seth Shitabrai Laxmichand Jain Parmarth Trust, Vidisha. At Basoda also a Bal Mandir was established in 1955 by Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti of the town and by 1963 the strength of students was 98. It is an aided institution and receives grants from Vijaya Raje Sindhia of Gwalior, the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Municipal Committee of Basoda Mandi Samiti, Basoda, and Central Social Welfare Board, Delhi.

Besides these, three pre-primary schools and a number of *Balwadis* are also being run in the Development Blocks of the District. The following table shows the progress of pre-primary education in the District during the last few years.

Table No. XV-10

Progress of Pre-Primary Education (1951-1970)

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Expenditure (Rs.)
1951	1	40	2	1,485
1961	3	222	8	15,230
1968-69	3	261	8	18,991
1969-70	4	276	9	18,793

In 1949-50, the number of primary schools in the District was 112. The Sironj Sub-Division of former Tonk State, which was later merged with the District in 1956, then had 27 primary schools. Thus Primary Schools in 1949-50, the region comprised in the present District of Vidisha had 139 primary schools attended by 7,147 students. The number of teachers in these primary schools was then 188. In 1951, the number of primary schools in the District (excluding Sironj Sub-Division) was 149 (147 Government and 2 private). The number of teachers was 259, that of students 6,844 and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,30,225. In the same year the number of primary schools in Sironj Sub-Division (Rajasthan) was 45. The number of students and teachers in these schools was 1,741 and 51, respectively.

Besides, there were 7 girls primary schools in the District in 1951. Sironj also had one girls primary school in 1951. The number of teachers and students in these eight girls primary schools was then 950 and 20, respectively. The number of these schools increased in coming years. The following table shows the progress of primary education in the District.

Table No. XV-11

Progress of Primary Education (1951-52 to 1973-74)

Year	Schools	Students		Teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1951-52	168	7,087	322	269	1
1955-56	352	12,089	1,233	476	2
1960-61	495	14,551	3,668	568	89
1965-66	651	27,415	8,685	1,081	179
1967-68	653	28,738	9,560	1,224	196
1968-69	651	30,979	9,447	1,216	227
1969-70	654	31,225	9,700	1,224	204
1971-72	684	33,566	12,535	1,498	
1972-73	652	54,960	20,034	1,734	
1973-74	787	40,318	14,646	1,732	

The private primary schools include Anjuman Islam schools of Vidisha and Basoda towns. Riyazul Madarasa of Sironj is also a private institution. Jain Society of Sironj is running a *Mahila Asram*, which imparts instruction upto fifth class. Besides these schools, a number of primary schools have been opened in the villages of the Development Blocks of the District.

After Independence, efforts were made for introducing compulsory primary education in the District, as elsewhere in the erstwhile Madhya Bharat State.

Under the scheme, eight primary schools were opened at Compulsory Education Vidisha in 1951. In 1952-53, a few more schools were started so as to cover every ward of the town. In the following year, villages within the radius of five miles of Vidisha town also witnessed the introduction of compulsory primary education in the area for the children of 6 to 11 years of age. In 1959-60, the scheme was also introduced in the Kurwai Block of Kurwai Tahsil, as a result of which 62 primary schools were opened in the Block. In the Third Five Year Plan period, few

more schools were opened in Vidisha and Kurwai tahsils of the District. By 1964, the number of compulsory primary schools in Vidisha and Kurwai tahsils was 40 and 66, respectively. Later some of these schools were converted into junior basic schools. The following table shows the progress of compulsory education in the District.

Table No. XV-12

Progress of Compulsory Education (1951-64)

	1951-52	1956	1961	1963	1964
No. of Schools	8	32	94	173	106
No. of Students eligible for admission	1,748	2,220	16,445	17,603	15,060
No. of students admitted	1,207	2,038	3,899	7,866	5,060
Percentage of students admitted	69	94	17	44	33
No. of Teachers	18	61	123	213	146
Expenditure (Rs.)	1,394	62,720	87,721	1,86,751	2,19,207

Basic Education

The pattern of Basic Education was adopted in the District for the first time in 1953-54. In that year five primary schools were converted into junior basic schools and an amount of Rs. 1,100 was also sanctioned for purchasing necessary equipments. In 1954-55 and 1955-56, the number of primary schools converted into junior basic schools was 11 and 4, respectively. During the Second Plan period, the number of junior basic schools increased to 38, but in the last year of the Second Plan period, the number decreased to 30, as eight junior basic schools were converted into middle schools in 1960-61.

The progress of junior basic schools in the District can be seen from the following table:—

Table No. XV-13

Progress of Junior Basic Schools (1956-1961)

Year	Schools	Students	Teachers	Expenditure (Rs.)
1956	21	1,281	32	37,480
1961	38	1,945	108	71,786

Secondary Education

At the time of the merger of states into Madhya Bharat Union (1948), the total number of middle schools in the District was three only. The number of students and teachers in these schools was 422 and 42, respectively. In 1949, the girls primary schools at Basoda, Vidisha and the primary schools at Lateri (then in Rajasthan) were upgraded to middle schools. The primary schools at Shamshabad, Udaipur and Gulabganj were converted into middle schools in 1950-51. Thus, prior to the First Five Year Plan period, there were 7 boys and 2 girls middle schools in the District. The number of students and teachers in these schools during the year 1951 was 798 (513 boys and 185 girls) and 64 (49 males and 15 females), respectively.

During the first Five year Plan period, the number of middle schools in the District increased rapidly. The primary schools at Vidisha, Peepalkheda, Masudpur, Sironj, and Anandpur were converted into middle schools during the years 1953-56. Thus by the year 1956, the total number of middle schools in the District rose to 14 (11 boys and 3 girls). Out of these 14 schools, Jain School at Vidisha was a private one. The number of students and teachers in the 13 Government middle schools during the year 1956 was 2,157 (1,963 boys and 214 girls) and 160 (131 males and 29 females), respectively.

The Second Five Year Plan period (1956-61) witnessed a rapid progress in the field of secondary education. A number of senior basic schools were opened and a few middle schools were upgraded to higher secondary schools in the District. In 1956-57 the primary schools at Kulhar and Naulas were converted into middle schools and the girls primary school at Lateri was upgraded to a middle school in 1957-58. Thus by the end of the year 1959-60, there were in all 15 middle schools (11 boys and 4 girls) in the District. In the last year of the Second Five Year Plan (1960-61), 10 primary and 4 middle schools of the District were converted into middle schools and higher secondary schools, respectively. Thus by that year there were in all 21 middle schools in the District.

During the Third Five Year Plan period, 10 and 9 primary schools were upgraded into middle schools in the years 1961-62 and 1962-63, respectively. The middle schools at Gyaraspur and Shamshabad were also upgraded to higher secondary schools in 1962-63. The following table shows the progress of middle schools and senior basic schools in the District during the last two decades:-

Table No. XV-14

Progress of Middle Schools (1951-1974)

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Students		No. of Teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1951	6	579	—	70	—
1956	13	2,372	71	162	—
1961	33	4,791	1,230	306	39
1966	78	4,986	1,411	344	52
1967	82	5,537	1,505	313	51
1968-69	82	5,879	1,663	413	76
1969-70	82	6,460	1,797	318	61
1971-72	99	6,529	2,040	410	
1972-73	113	7,383	2,237	492	
1973-74	120	7,965	2,317	510	

Prior to 1905-06, there was no high school in the District. In that year the middle school at Vidisha was upgraded to a high school but was again converted into a middle school in 1912 due to mismanagement. In 1936, Lakshmichand Shitabrai of Vidisha, donated Rs. 50,000 for high school education of the town. As a result of this donation S. S. L. Jain High school was started at Vidisha in 1936. Next year the primary school of Sironj (established in 1887) was upgraded to a high school and was named the Sahadat High School. Till August, 1947, only the above mentioned high schools existed in the District. The number of students and teachers and the expenditure incurred on these two institutions, during the year 1947, were 655, and Rs. 3,02,126 respectively.

The Jain High School of Vidisha was upgraded to an Intermediate College in 1950-51. In the same year Shri Ratichand Ramlal Jain donated funds to establish a high school at Basoda. The High school of Basoda was also upgraded to an Intermediate College in 1954. Thus by the year 1956, there were two Intermediate colleges and one high school in the District. The number of students and teachers in these institutions during the year 1956, was 918 and 62, respectively. With the efforts of the Nawab of Kurwai, a private Agricultural High School was established at Kurwai in 1957. It was later handed over to the State Government in 1961, and was converted into a higher secondary school.

In 1958, the Bal Mandir Samiti of Basoda started high school classes for girls in the town. The Municipal Committee of the town also paid an amount of Rs. 9,000 as grant-in-aid. The school was later handed over to the Government in March, 1960.

In view of Secondary Education Commission's recommendations, the high schools of the District were converted into higher secondary schools. During the Second Five Year Plan period, a number of middle schools were thus converted into higher secondary schools. In 1960-61, the boys middle schools at Basoda, Vidisha, and Kurwai and the girls middle schools at Sironj and Vidisha were converted into higher secondary schools. Thus by the end of the Second Five Year Plan period, there were two Intermediate colleges and six higher secondary schools (4 boys and 2 girls) in the District.

During the Third Five Year Plan period, a few changes were introduced in the field of secondary education in the District. Both the Intermediate Colleges (Vidisha and Basoda) of the District were again converted into higher secondary schools. The middle schools of Gyaspur and Shamshabad were upgraded to higher secondary schools in 1961-62. As a result of these changes, there were now eight boys (6 Government and 2 private) and three girls higher secondary schools in the District. In the year 1962-63, the number of students and teachers in these schools was 3,435 (2,473 boys and 962 girls) and 207 (74 trained and 133 untrained), respectively. In 1963-64, the middle schools at Udaipur and Gulabganj were converted into higher secondary schools and the number of these schools thus rose to 13 in the District.

The progress of secondary education in the District during the years 1951-70 is tabulated below.

Table No. XV-15
Progress of High|Higher Secondary Schools (1951-74)

Year	No. of Schools	Students		Teachers	
		Boys	Girls	Males	Females
1951	3	540	23	44	—
1956	3	750	19	62	—
1961	9	2,170	957	145	35
1966	15	2,304	494	139	25
1967	15	2,533	591	163	25
1968-69	15	3,230	818	162	24
1969-70	16	3,062	888	163	29
1971-72	17	3,363	1,004	214	
1972-73	18	3,575	1,129	217	
1973-74	20	3,452	1,032	240	

Prior to the year 1959, there was no arrangement for the training of teachers in the District. The teachers of the District were then sent elsewhere for their training in the profession of teaching. The Teachers Training first basic teachers' training institute was opened at Institutes Basoda in 1959. Next year another institute was established at the District headquarters to cope up with the demand of trained teachers in the District. A few teachers were also sent for training to the Post Graduate Basic Training College, Bhopal, and to Physical Training College, Shivpuri. The following table shows the number of trainees in both the basic training institutes of the District.

Table No. XV-16

Progress of Basic Training Institutes (1960-61 to 1970-71)

Year	No. of Training Institutes	No. of Trainees	No. of Govt. nominees among the trainees
1960-61	2	198	13
1961-62	2	200	13
1962-63	2	200	16
1963-64	2	192	16
1964-65	2	190	81
1965-66	2	70	42
1966-67	2	144	41
1967-68	2	119	10
1968-69	1	115	41
1969-70	1	118	87
1970-71	1	113	104

Consequent upon the closure of the training institute at Basoda in the year 1968-69, only one training centre of Vidisha catered to the need for the trained personnel.

Prior to the year 1958, there was no arrangement for University education in the District. The students of the District, therefore, received university education in the towns of the neighbouring districts. In the year 1958, Seth Shitabrai Laxmichand Jain Trust established the first degree college at Vidisha. In the first instance, a few Science and Arts subjects were introduced for degree students of the college. Later in 1960, Law courses for LL. B. students, Botany

and Zoology subjects for degree students and English Literature for M.A. students were also introduced. The post-graduate classes in Economics were started in the year 1962-63. The new college building was also completed in the year 1962. The college was affiliated to the Vikram University, Ujjain, but the affiliation has now been transferred to the newly established Bhopal University from July, 1970. It receives annually grants-in-aid from the Education Department of the State. The college is also a centre for University examinations since 1959. The college has a library and a reading-room. The following table shows the number of students, teachers, and grants-in-aid received since its inception :-

Table No. XV-17

Progress of S. S. L. Jain College, Vidisha (1958-59 to 1970-71)

Year	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Expenditure (Rs.)		Income (Rs.)
			Recurring	Non-Recurring	
1958-59	N.A.	N.A.	22,300		
1961-62	500	N.A.	45,210	36,306	7,716
1965-66	705	—	1,23,067	18,560	10,591
1966-67	747	—	1,47,349	25,210	59,193
1967-68	732	—	1,64,701	18,694	75,273
1968-69	—	24	1,96,021	4,341	82,479
					1,55,103
1969-70	1,212	35	2,62,798	63,848	2,39,036
1970-71	1,152	40	3,31,784	1,97,593	3,18,146

With the efforts of Sironj Municipal Committee and a few leading citizens this college came into being in the year 1969. Run by an organisation of the same name, the college started with classes for B. A. Lal Bahadur Shastri Part I and II and later, in 1970-71, Part III was also Mahavidyalaya introduced. Initially affiliated to Vikram University, Ujjain, the affiliation was transferred to the newly created Bhopal University, Bhopal after its formation in 1970. In Arts courses the strength of students was 161 in 1969-70 and 151 in 1970-71 with 5 teachers including the Principal. The college provides library facility having 1,165 books on its shelves. The income and expenditure of the college in 1970-71 were Rs. 20,384 and Rs. 28,210 respectively.

In the year 1963-64, an arts degree college was started by Taran Taran Trust at Basoda.

Professional and Technical Schools and Colleges

As stated earlier, the law classes were initially started in the year 1960 at Seth Shitabrai Laxmichand Jain Degree College, Vidisha. Arrangements were made for teaching the law students by the leading advocates of the town. The law classes are held in the college building. The law degree courses were affiliated to the Vikram University, Ujjain, which has now been transferred to the Bhopal University since July 1970. The college also receives grant-in-aid from the State Government. The following table shows the number of students in the previous and final classes since inception.

*Table No. XV-18**Progress of Law Classes in S. S. L. Jain College, Vidisha (1960-61 to 1970-71)*

Year	Students in		Total
	LL. B. Previous	LL. B. Final	
1960-61	43	—	43
1966-67	60	37	97
1967-68	50	50	100
1968-69	50	47	97
1969-70	84	17	101
1970-71	93	35	128

Note :—In 1968-69 and onwards, previous and final years include the strength of students in Part I, II and III of LL. B. courses.

Prior to the formation of the new State of Madhya Pradesh in 1956, there was no arrangement for technical education in the District. To give an impetus to the technical education, Vidisha Education Society was organised in 1956. It was later named as Maharaja Jiwaji Rao Education Society, Vidisha. Maharaja Jiwaji Rao, the ruler of the erstwhile Gwalior State, donated a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs to the Society from Gangajali Funds. As a result of the recommendations of the Western Regional Committee of the All India Council for Technical Education, a Polytechnic was established at Vidisha in 1956, and 60 students were admitted in the first year of Diploma Courses of Madhya Pradesh Board of Technical Education. The institution was named as Samrat Ashok Technological Institute Vidisha. The degree classes in engineering were also started in 1960 with an intake

capacity of 60, 30, and 30 in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, ultlytively, which was increased to 60 in each branch in the year 1968-69.

The Polytechnic Section has arrangements for teaching three year diploma courses in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. It has its own building with all the necessary equipments. The hostel attached to it has an accommodation for 93 students. During the last 10 years, the strength of Polytechnic section fluctuated from 94 in 1960-61 to 275 in 1964-65. But then it registered a steep decline in each subsequent year and in 1968-69 only 82 students were on the rolls. In 1970-71, the strength further declined to 43 students. The number of teachers and amount of expenditure, however, was 73 and Rs. 1,92,124 in 1960-61 and 23 and Rs. 2,88,349 respectively in the year 1967-68. But in the following years the strength of teachers came down and in 1970-71 only 20 teachers were there. The expenditure, however, further mounted to Rs. 2,71,549 in 1968-69 and to Rs. 3,02,427 in 1970-71.

The College Section started functioning in Vidisha since 1960-61. It imparts instruction for 5 year degree courses in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineering. The college had a library with 6,107 books in 1970-71. It also provides hostel facility for 100 students. The progress of the college during the sixties can be viewed through the following table :—

Table No. XV-19

*Progress of Samrat Ashok Technological Institute (College)
Vidisha (1961-62 to 1970-71)*

Year	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Recurring Expenditure (Rs.)	Non-Recurring Expenditure (Rs.)	Income (Rs.)
1961-62	193	20	1,71,200	2,75,600	1,97,000
1966-67	524	—	4,98,311	1,92,758	5,30,497
1967-68	623	—	5,62,598	27,384	5,67,162
1968-69	506	49	6,35,794		
1969-70	441	47	7,00,145		
1970-71	356	46	7,40,887		

A music school was established at Vidisha in the year 1954 with private efforts. Since then it is functioning at Vidisha and is the only institution in the District imparting instruction in classical music. In the beginning it was managed by a committee consisting of 10 members. The institution was registered in February, 1956 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The school also established two branches in the town, but which were soon closed due to the financial

difficulties. During this period, the school also organised a few programmes of classical music to improve its financial position. The Town Municipality, Maharashtra Panchpedi and the Education Department of Madhya Pradesh granted grants-in-aid to the institution. In 1962-63, the school was affiliated to Indira Sangeet Vishva Vidyalaya, Khairagarh. The school has its own building. The following table reviews its progress during the last few years :—

Table No. XV-20

Progress of Music School, Vidisha (1956-1964)

Year	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Expenditure Rs.
1956	37	1	4,532
1961	25	1	731
1963	30	1	930
1964	30	2	N.A.

Oriental Schools

Vidisha has been a centre of Sanskrit learning since time immemorial. In the last decade of the 19th century, efforts were made by the ruler of Gwalior State to introduce Sanskrit in the educational institutions of Vidisha. But the efforts were not successful due to lack of Sanskrit teachers. In 1949, a literary organisation called Hindi Parishad was founded at Sironj. The society opened a Sanskrit School, called Shiv Sanskrit Pathashala, in the town. The school still conducts Sanskrit classes and is affiliated to Kashi Sanskrit Pracharini Sabha, Kashi. Similar Sanskrit schools are also being run at Basoda and Vidisha. The school at Basoda is known as Bhriku Sanskrit Pathashala.

In 1953, the Government Sanskrit School was started at Vidisha in the building of the Government Girls Higher Secondary School. Later it was shifted to a temple of the town. The institution imparts instruction in Sanskrit Literature, Grammar, Philosophy, Kavya, Vedas, Prosody, Astrology, Hindi, General Science and English. The school is affiliated to Sanskrit Vishva-vidyalaya, Varanasi, and Sanskrit Vishva Parishad, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Bombay, and is a centre for their examinations. The classes are held in the morning and the education is imparted free of cost. The deserving and the poor students of the school get annual scholarships worth Rs. 200 each from

the Municipal Committee of the town. The school has a small library containing books on Sanskrit Literature. The following table shows the progress of the school since its inception :-

Table No. XV-21

Progress of Government Sanskrit School, Vidisha (1953-71)

Year	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Expenditure Rs.
1953	6	1	832
1956	26	1	1,003
1961	37	2	2,532
1963	47	2	4,154
1964-65	19	3	
1965-66	46	3	
1966-67	51	3	
1967-68	67	3	
1968-69	73	6	
1969-70	85	6	21,056
1970-71	52	4	16,432

To impart instruction through Sindhi, a Sindhi School was established at Vidisha in 1954. There were two teachers and 45 students in the school in 1964. Anjuman Islam, Vidisha, the first Urdu school of the District, was established at Vidisha in 1918. Sindhi School and Urdu School In January, 1964 the number of teachers and students was 6 and 130, respectively. It is a recognised institution and receives grants-in-aid from the Government. Taught by 5 teachers in 1965-66, the number of students was 146 which increased to 260 in 1970-71, the teachers being 6. Girls Urdu Primary School, Vidisha, is the only Government Urdu primary school in the District for girls. In January 1964 the number of students and teachers in the institution was 24 and 1, respectively.

An Urdu school was founded by the Society in 1956, at Basoda. It imparts instruction through the medium of Urdu. It is a recognised school and receives grant-in-aid from the Government. In 1966, the Anjuman Islam, Basoda, school had 172 students taught by five teachers. The Riyazul Madaris, Sironj Society established an Urdu school in 1930. It is an important centre of Islamic education in the District. The school is affiliated to Jamia Urdu, Aligarh, and started holding its examinations

from 1954. The main sources of its income are from the property attached to it and the donations received from the public. In 1964, the number of teachers and students was 7 (5 men and 2 women) and 130, respectively.

Adult Literacy and Social Education

The concept of adult education originated even during the regime of the princely States, but the feeble efforts of theirs in this regard had little or no impact on Vidisha District. In 1914, the Gwalior Government appointed some preachers to educate the masses in Gwalior State. These persons, as elsewhere, toured the villages of the District and made efforts to spread literacy among the masses through the medium of religious stories and *bhajans*. In 1943 an adult literacy centre functioned at Gamakhar, a village in Vidisha Tahsil.

With the advent of Independence in 1947, the concept of adult education has widened. Efforts were then made for the spread of literacy among the masses. With this view, community centres, *Seva Dals*, *Kisan Sabhas*, *Mahila Samitis* and reading rooms were started all over the region. A number of community centres were started in the villages of the District. Night classes were also started for adults in which the teachers of the schools made them literate. The teachers were usually given an allowance of Rs. 10 per month for this additional work.

Prior to September, 1959, the work of social education was done by the Education Department of the State. But since then it has been transferred to the Panchayat and Social Welfare Directorate.

In 1957, there were 10 adult literacy centres which increased to 35 during the following year. The reading rooms attached to these centres numbered 21 in 1958-59. By 1960-61, although the number of such centres (full time) remained the same but a large number of adults (417) was recorded with 12 teachers (full-time) to coach them. The expenditure incurred on these centres amounted to Rs. 14, 660 in that year.

In Vidisha town, a separate centre for teaching adult women was also started in 1961 under the control of Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vidisha. The centre later prepared candidates for Women's Adult Course of the Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

A commendable progress was thus made during 1951-61 decade. The number of adults made literate and the expenditure increased from 400 and Rs. 3039 to 660 and Rs. 16,522, respectively, in 1956. In 1961, 417 adults were made literate and Rs. 14,660 was spent in the District. Twenty-one

libraries were attached to these centres in 1961, containing 1970 books. Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2,200 on this scheme in that year. Further progress of social education is tabulated below.

Table No. XV-22
Progress of Social Education (1955-56 to 1969-70)

Year	Classes Working	Adults enrolled	No. of camps organised in the District	No. of Persons benefited	No. of cinema shows organised	No. of kala pathak programmes	No. of drama shows	Other audio-visual programmes regarding social education activities of the District
1955-56	—	—	25	1,079	59	—	—	47
1960-61	85	1,218	54	3,284	122	9	—	55
1965-66	125	1,822	125	4,266	222	74	740	93
1966-67	8	160	3	168	28	37	39	46
1967-68	6	127	6	312	26	35	36	49
1968-69	39	676	17	510	12	67	—	—
1969-70	43	773	14	4.0	14	43	—	—

Cultural, Literary and Scientific Societies

The Parishad was founded in 1940 at Vidisha due to the efforts of some literary figures of the town. The Parishad started classes for Hindi examinations of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag. It also arranged Kavi Sammelans and birth anniversaries of leading Hindi writers to create love for Hindi literature among the masses. From time to time, the learned scholars of Hindi were honoured by the Parishad. The number of members soon after its inception increased to 100. The Parishad has also published two collections of poems, entitled *Ambar ke Deep* and *Vidisha ke Bol*.

The Parishad was established in 1957, with a view to popularising Hindi among the masses. At the outset it had 20 members on its rolls, which number gradually increased to 75 in 1964. The Parishad published two collections of poems, entitled *Aahvan* and *Rimjhim* composed by the local poets.

Hindi Sahitya Parishad
Sironj

Seva Ashram, Sironj

Prior to the formation of Hindi Sahitya Parishad, Sironj, a leading litterateur established a literary institution, called Seva Ashram, in 1940. The institution is engaged in the task of popularising and propagating Hindi language among the citizens of the town. It also conducts examinations of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag.

Maharaja Jiwaji Rao Education Society, Vidisha

The society was founded in 1955-56 with a view to establishing technical and engineering institutions in the District. At the outset Maharaja Jiwaji

Roa Sindhia donated a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs from the Gangajali Fund. The society opened a Polytechnic Institution in 1956, and then also started an Engineering College in 1960-61. Both these institutions are functioning in the town under the name of Samrat Ashok Technological Institute, Vidisha.

Zila Stree Shiksha Parishad, Vidisha

The Parishad was founded in 1962 under the auspices of Madhya Pradesh Rajya Stree Shiksha Parishad. The Parishad aims at spreading education among the women of the District.

Bal Samiti, Vidisha

The Samiti is functioning in the town since 1960. It aims at providing healthy recreation for the children of the town. It organises social gatherings, debates and lectures for broadening the outlook of the children. The Samiti has been recognised by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Yuvak Samiti is also functioning in the town as its sister organisation.

Seth Shitabrai Lakshmichand Digambar Jain Trust, Vidisha

The Trust was founded in 1934-35 by Seth Lakshmichand of Vidisha with a sum of Rs. 50,000 with various religious and educational objectives. The Trust, therefore, established a higher secondary school in 1936 and later a college in the year 1966 to fulfil its objectives. The institutions are recognised and receive grants-in-aid from the Government.

Bajme Adab, Sironj

The organisation was founded in 1957 with a view to popularising and propagating Urdu in the District. It also organises *mushairas* in the town. The membership numbered 75 in 1964.

Riyazul Madaris, Sironj

The institution was founded in 1930 at Sironj. It opened an Urdu school in the town in which religious instruction was imparted to the children.

Shri Taran Digambar Jain Trust, Basoda

The trust was established at Basoda in 1951 by Seth Ratichand Ramlal Jain. The trust opened a high school in 1951 which was upgraded to an Intermediate College in 1954, but after four years, it was again downgraded as a higher secondary school. Later in 1964 it was made a degree college.

Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti, Basoda

The Samiti was founded in 1951 at Basoda. It was registered in 1956 under Madhya Bharat Societies Registration Act. It aims at educating the young boys and girls of the town. The Samiti receives grants-in-aid from the Government. It has a managing body consisting of nearly 13 members who are elected every year. In 1959 Shrimati Vijaya Raje Sindhia of Gwalior donated a sum of Rs. 11,000 to the Samiti for establishing a Shishu Vihar in the town. The Samiti also receives financial aid from the public, Municipal Committee, Mandi Samiti, Social Welfare Board and Education Department of the State. The Samiti opened Bal Mandir and a Girls Higher Secondary School in the years 1956 and 1958, respectively. The Girls Higher Secondary School was, however, handed over to the Government in 1960. The Samiti has also established libraries for the children and for the women of the town.

Anjuman Islam, Basoda

The institution was founded in 1956 at Basoda. It runs Anjuman Tarakki School in the town. It is a recognised institution and receives grant-in-aid from the Government. It aims at the promotion of Urdu language.

Pratibha Sahitya Parishad, Kurwai

A literary society, called Pratibha Sahitya Parishad, was founded at Kurwai in August, 1970. It aimed at patronizing poets and writers of the place. The society has at present a membership of 15 persons. It has organised a few *Kavi sammelan Goshties* and debate competition since its inception. Its main source of income is subscription received from its members. The society aims at publishing literary works of the local writers.

Chintan Darpan Sahitya Parishad, Basoda

A literary and cultural society, called Chintan Darpan Sahitya Parsihad, was established at Basoda in February, 1967. It had a membership of 14 persons in 1970-71. The income and expenditure of the Parishad during the year 1970-71 amounted to Rs. 554 and Rs. 450, respectively. Since its inception, the Parishad is engaged in organising activities such as *sahityik-goshtis* *Kavi-sammelans*, symposiums, and anniversaries of great personalities. The Parishad is at present engaged in publishing *Chintan ke Swar*, a collection of poems.

Libraries and Museums

A number of libraries are being run by the different agencies in the District. A brief description of a few important public libraries of the District is being given below :—

Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, Vidisha

The library was established in 1930, and was registered in 1938. It had 27 life-members and 244 ordinary members in 1964. The library receives an annual grant-in-aid from the Government. It has books on various subjects. It also subscribes leading newspapers and journals of the country. The following table shows the number of books and members of the library during the last few years.

*Table No. XV-23**Progress of Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, Vidisha (1957-64)*

Year	No. of books in the library	No. of newspapers and journals received in the library	No. of members	Average daily attendance
1957	3,000	32	100	60
1958	3,430	40	115	70
1959	4,000	48	140	90
1960	4,455	56	185	100
1961	4,700	60	277	150
1962	4,958	60	258	150
1963	5,102	60	268	160
1964	5,378	61	271	165

Pushyamitra Vachanalaya, Vidisha

The Municipal Committee, Vidisha, established a public library at the Station area of the town in 1960. It contained nearly 2,600 books on its shelves in 1964 and had a membership of 115 persons in that year. It also subscribes newspapers and journals for its readers. The Municipal Committee

sanctions a sum of about Rs. 1,000 per annum towards the subscription of newspapers and journals. The average daily attendance is 60 persons.

Gandhi Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, Sironj

This library was established in 1942 and is being run by the Municipal Committee of the town. It had 1,300 books on its shelves in the year 1963-64. The average daily attendance is 25. The library also subscribes newspapers and periodicals numbering nearly 10.

Sarvajanik Vachanalaya, Basoda

The library was founded in 1940 and was registered in 1957. Its average daily attendance is 40. The number of books on its shelves was 1957 in 1963-64. It had 80 members on its register in 1963-64. It also subscribed towards 7 dailies, 7 fortnightlies and 25 monthlies in 1963-64. For some years it received grant-in-aid from the Education Department, Mandi Samiti and Municipal Committee, Basoda.

Museum

In 1914, the Archaeology Department of the erstwhile State of a Gwalior conducted excavations in the ancient city of Vidisha. A few articles and stone statues collected during these excavations were stored in the Dak Bungalow of the town and the rest were transferred to Gujar Mahal Museum, Gwalior Fort. In 1940, a local *Zamindar*, while digging the land for getting stones useful for the construction of his house, found beautiful stone statues. These statues were also placed in the compound of the Dak Bungalow. Again during the years 1963-65, excavations were carried on and the articles and statues thus unearthed were either transferred to Gujar Mahal Museum, Gwalior, or to the Dak Bungalow of the town. In 1957, a regular museum at Vidisha was started under the supervision of a curator. Later, a separate building was constructed for Vidisha Museum in 1962, and the articles and statues obtained during different excavations of Vidisha were placed in it. The Museum was opened for public from the 1st January, 1963.

The Museum has three galleries and two verandahs. In the main hall a beautiful statue of Kuber Yaksha, 12 feet in height, has been displayed. In the second hall and the two verandahs, the stone sculptures from first century B. C. to twelfth century A. D. have been displayed. In the third hall, the stone-age implements and the objects discovered during the excavations at Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Ujjain, Pawaya, Vidisha and Besnagar have been arranged. The plaster casts of famous statues of India are also displayed here.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Facilities in Early Times

Prior to introduction of allopathic system of medicines sometime in the middle of 19th century the present district of Vidisha had presumably the traditional *Aurved* and *Unani* medical aids.

It appears from the Central India Agency Report of 1865-66 that Bhilsa had a dispensary established sometime in the early 1860's. And in 1865-66, it treated as many as 492 patients and vaccinated 1200. This dispensary was supported by Gwalior State and was supervised by the Agency Surgeon, Sehore. In 1896-97 the Bhilsa dispensary was transferred to Gwalior Agency. These western styled hospitals took a long time to establish themselves in public esteem; gradually the hospital and charitable dispensaries began to be freely resorted to by the public. A dispensary was also opened at Sironj in 1886-87. No special arrangements existed for indoor patients in these dispensaries. However, in Bhilsa Dispensary, the available accommodation was offered to deserving cases whenever such situations arose.

During the first three or four decades of the present century these medical institutions seem to have won the confidence of the public and there was appreciable increase in the number of patients attending them. With the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948, Vidisha District began to enjoy more medical facilities which were further augmented during the Plan period.

The general health of the District was occasionally disturbed by epidemics like plague, cholera, smallpox, etc. However, the timely preventive measures undertaken by the authorities appear to have reduced them considerably.

Vital Statistics

The collection of vital statistics in the District in a systematic manner is of recent origin. In the erstwhile State of Gwalior the mode of registration of vital occurrences was more or less voluntary until 1913, when instructions for collection and maintenance of vital statistics were issued and were incorporated in the Police Manual. However, these instructions were not carried out profitably.

Under the existing set-up the municipal committees and similar bodies record births and deaths in respect of urban areas and submit a statement to the Civil Surgeon. The vital occurrences are also reported to the nearest police stations from where the report is passed on to the Civil Surgeon. In the rural areas the *kotwars* report vital events to the police station for onward transmission to the Civil Surgeon. The Civil Surgeon in his turn passes on these figures to the Director of Health Services, and to the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics through the District Statistical Officer for compilation and record.

The following Table will show the total number of births and deaths in the District and their rates during recent years.

Table No. XVI-1

Births, Deaths and their rates

Year	Total No. of Births	Birth rate per mille	Total No. of Deaths	Death rate per mille
1964	4,355	8.22	1,469	2.77
1965	4,313	7.93	1,730	3.14
1966	4,977	8.91	1,526	2.73
1967	4,303	7.50	1,707	2.97
1968	4,156	7.01	1,414	2.39
1969	4,213	6.91	1,513	2.48
1971	4,462	6.72	1,664	2.51
1972	3,977	5.85	1,966	2.89
1973	4,605	6.59	2,533	3.62

Causes of Mortality

Fever, bowel complaints, tuberculosis, smallpox, etc., are the main causes of mortality in the District in general. Cholera and smallpox had visited the District time and again during the first three decades of the present century, occasionally assuming the form of an epidemic. During the first two decades plague frequently visited the District and disturbed the general health much more than any other epidemic. However, the District was completely free from plague in recent years. The following Table shows the extent of mortality caused by various diseases during recent years.

Table No. XVI-2

Deaths and their Causes

Year	Cholera	Smallpox	Fever	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	TB	Injuries & Suicides	Delivery	All other causes
1962	—	6	84	69	18	—	—	148
1963	4	3	—	11	12	—	—	77
1964	—	—	236	79	—	—	—	1,154
1965	—	13	585	325	—	—	—	824
1966	—	4	608	—	—	—	—	918
1967	—	10	599	175	—	10	—	913
1968	1	31	693	162	71	22	—	434
1969	2	131	687	172	115	30	23	353
1971	8	70	1194	53	143	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1972	8	44	1172	97	160	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1973	25	89	1254	37	237	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Infant Mortality

The main causes of infant mortality are prematurity, malnutrition (chiefly owing to want of mother's milk), diarrhoea, respiratory causes, smallpox and fevers. The extension of medical facilities to the very interior of the District through Primary Health Centres and their sub-centres, arrangements for prenatal and postnatal care of mothers, and provision for the supply of milk powder to underfed infants and their mothers have considerably checked infant mortality in recent years. The annual rate of infant mortality per 1000 live births and maternal mortality per 1,000 total births for the period 1961 to 1970 are given below.

Table No. XVI-3

Infant Mortality

Year	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Maternal mortality rate per 1000 births
1961	23.90	10.56
1962	N.A.	N.A.
1963	3.15	3.12
1964	40.00	N.A.
1965	18.00	N.A.
1966	16.28	N.A.
1967	38.58	3.72
1968	42.11	N.A.
1969	60.76	5.46
1971	76.20	N.A.
1972	77.95	N.A.
1973	58.63	N.A.

Diseases Common to the District

As mentioned earlier, cholera, smallpox, malaria, tuberculosis, bowel complaints, etc., are the diseases common to the District. Plague also deserves a mention as a dangerous disease of the past. The general health in the District was affected by these diseases with varying intensity in the past and present.

Cholera

Except for making a general remark on the attack of this disease in an epidemic form on many occasions during the last century, there is nothing to show the degree of its virulence each time. During the early years of the present century also cholera had visited the District many times, but district-wise statistics in this regard are, again, not available. In 1900-01 and 1919-20 the entire Gwalior State was in its grip and Vidisha (Bhilsa) was one of the worst affected districts. The preventive measures adopted by the medical department, however, appear to have checked mortality to an extent. In recent years Vidisha District witnessed cholera in an epidemic form in 1951, 1952, 1958, 1960 and 1963 causing 20; 569; 72; 13; and 4 deaths, respectively. The epidemic was at its height in 1952.

The preventive and curative anti-cholera measures generally adopted in the District are, disinfection of the sources of water supply by potassium permanganate, and mass inoculation campaign. At the time of serious outbreaks

the medical and public health staff do mass inoculation, impart health education and distribute anti-cholera medicines. Disinfection of vomita, dejects and infected clothes is carried out with the help of local authorities and municipalities. Emergency cholera regulations are also enforced whenever the situation so warrants. The preventive measures are extended to adjacent villages in order to arrest its spreading there. Infectious cases are also treated in the isolation wards of hospitals.

Smallpox

It appears from the various administration reports and similar other records that smallpox has not been an infrequent visitor to the District, occasionally assuming the form of an epidemic. But here again, it is difficult to assess the extent of mortality caused by this disease each time for want of data. In 1912-13 smallpox broke out in an epidemic form in certain villages of Vidisha. The mortality caused this time was, though not very high, not negligible either. Available records mention another outbreak of this disease in an epidemic form in 1934-35. In 1950-51 there was a severe outbreak of smallpox at many places in Madhya Bharat, Vidisha being the worst affected District. There were in all 355 attacks and 99 deaths from this disease. In still recent years smallpox visited the District at certain places in an epidemic form almost every year with a gap of one year from 1950-51 to 1968-69. In 1968-69, the number of deaths caused by smallpox was 131.

Vaccination is the only effective preventive measure to stamp out this disease. Until the formation of a separate medical department for Gwalior State in 1887, alongwith which a scheme for regular vaccination was evolved, there existed only dispensary vaccination in the District. Vaccination was carried out by the compounders incharge of the dispensaries also in their immediate vicinity. An attempt, thus, made by the medical department in 1887 to popularise vaccination could not be very successful, for the villagers among whom vaccination was almost a necessity were prejudiced against it. A vaccination manual was compiled in 1910-11. In 1920-21, a depot for the manufacture of vaccine lymph—the only one of its kind then in Central India—was established at Shivpuri. This was followed by the opening of training classes for vaccinators in 1923-24 and the introduction of some legislative measures. Accordingly, the Gwalior vaccination bill was passed into law, taking effect from 30th August, 1942. It was laid down that vaccination and revaccination of children and adults should be resorted to as a measure for personal protection.

In order to root out this disease the National Smallpox Eradication Programme was launched in the District. The number of vaccination, which was only 1,775 in 1951 rose to 11,198 in 1958 and 27,737 in 1970. The details of the vaccination work is given in the Table below.

Table No. XVI-4

Vaccination

Year	Primary Vaccination	Re-Vaccination
1966	21,705	1,13,073
1967	23,195	69,445
1968	18,589	20,025
1969	23,944	61,169
1970	27,737	13,670
1971 (up to May 31)	14,844	9,981

Malaria

The various administration reports relating to the early years of the present century have frequently been reporting that malarial fever was responsible for considerable mortality in this District, though it was not hyperendemic. However, in the absence of relevant data the intensity of its incidence during this period cannot be assessed. All the same arrangements appear to have existed for distribution of quinine and other anti-malaria drugs to the needy on nominal rates at medical institutions and through the agency of patwaris, post-offices and Panchayat Boards.

The anti-malarial measures were speeded up after the formation of Madhya Bharat in 1948. Under the National Malaria Control Programme, which was launched in the District in 1953 with its Unit headquarters at Guna, these activities gained further momentum. Two of the sub-units were located in the District at Sironj and Vidisha. The former sub-unit was to cover 2 towns and 722 villages with a population of 2,04,877 while 2 towns and 889 villages with a population of 2,84,336 were to be covered by the latter. The unit activities were confined to spraying of the entire area twice a year with D. D. T. followed by infant and juvenile blood survey to assess the incidence of malaria. In 1959 the National Malaria Eradication Programme replaced the Control Programme. Surveillance work was also started in 1959.

The staff for conducting the National Malaria Eradication Programme work

in the District included one Assistant Unit Officer, 2 Senior Malaria Inspectors, 2 Junior Malaria Inspectors, 13 Malaria Surveillance Inspectors, 51 Surveillance workers, 1 Field Worker, 2 Drivers and 2 Cleaners.

From 1961 to 1965 there was no DDT spraying as the unit was then under the consolidation phase. Human dwellings and cattlesheds sprayed with DDT in subsequent years numbered 67,76,734 and 10,441 in 1967; 1,01,966 and 15,562 in 1968; and 1,31,034 and 14,810 in 1969, respectively. Children were not examined for spleen rate since the inauguration of NMEP in the District in 1959.

Tuberculosis

This disease has been responsible for a sizeable number of deaths in the District every year, though it defied detection in the early years of the present century. In 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960, there were 33,405,205 and 36 deaths, respectively. During the decade 1961-70, the number of deaths caused by T. B. numbered 18,12,71 and 115 in 1962, 1963, 1968, and 1969, respectively. For the prevention of T. B., BCG vaccination campaigns are being conducted. To combat this disease there is one T. B. Clinic at Vidisha.

A six bedded (3 male and 3 female) T. B. Clinic was opened at Vidisha in 1955 at the District Hospital. It is staffed by one T. B. Health Visitor (trained at the National Tuberculosis Institute), one Laboratory Assistant (also N. T. I. trained), one nurse, one compounder, two wardboys and one sweeper. The total number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated here from 1961 to 1968 is given below.

Table No. XVI-5
Number of Persons Treated at T. B. Clinic

Year	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Outdoor	217	344	300	406	349	392	517	446
Indoor		84	111	55	78	73	38	58

BCG Vaccination campaigns have been launched in the District since 1954. As many as 86,118 persons were tested and 12,478 vaccinated in that year. The BCG team again visited the District in 1956, 1958, 1959, and 1960 vaccinating 6,381, 1976, 15033 and 17958 persons respectively.

Eye Diseases

Trachoma and cataract are the two common eye diseases. Under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research, a Pilot Project Survey was conducted in 1959 to assess the incidence of trachoma. The percentage of incidence of trachoma in Vidisha District was estimated to be 39.8. Treatment for these diseases is being offered at the District Hospital Vidisha, and at the civil hospitals, dispensaries and primary health centres.

Bowel Complaints

Diarrhoea and dysentery are the two major complaints that cause a high mortality among children. The number of deaths from these diseases has been considerable. During the years 1962 to 1969, the death caused by diarrhoea and dysentery was 993.

Plague

As mentioned earlier, the District was completely free from plague during recent years. But it certainly witnessed several virulent attacks in 1903-05, 1913-15, 1917-18 and 1919-20. Owing to the timely precautionary measures adopted, the District has been comparatively free from this dangerous epidemic since then. There has not been an attack of plague in recent years.

Hospitals and Dispensaries

There were 2 hospitals, 4 dispensaries, 7 primary health centres, 5 maternity and child welfare centres, 10 family planning centres and 21 ayurvedic dispensaries in the District in 1968. The two hospitals are located at Vidisha and Basoda, the former being a District Hospital.

Establishment of this hospital can be traced back to the Government dispensary at Vidisha mentioned earlier. This dispensary grew in size gradually and became a hospital. With the formation of a medical district for Vidisha in 1962, this institution began to enjoy the position of a District Hospital. It was then a 40 bedded hospital. Its bed strength was raised to 80 in 1970—Female medical 8, Female Surgical 8, Male medical 20, Male Surgical 20, Isolation 2, Special 4, Maternity Home 12 and T. B. Clinic 6. It is staffed by 12 Doctors. An anti-rabic centre is functioning in this hospital since April, 1962.

The number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated here during 1961 to 1970 is given below :

Table No. XVI-6

Number of Patients Treated at District Hospital

Year	Outdoor (Old and New)	Indoor
1961	1,12,840	765
1962	1,46,294	937
1963	1,31,162	1,094
1964	2,12,297	1,815
1965	1,72,097	1,355
1966	2,27,892	3,019
1967	2,10,990	5,579
1968	3,88,724	3,187
1969	3,19,790	4,441
1970	3,55,670	6,732

Located at a distance of 2km. from Basoda Railway Station on the main road, the Civil Hospital at Basoda was established in 1929. It had then only its main building and a 4 bedded male ward, besides residential quarters for its staff which consisted of one doctor, one compounder, one nurse and others. A general ward and a maternity ward were added to it in 1956. In 1959 Nurses quarters were also constructed. In 1968 it was a 20 bedded (male 10, female 4 and maternity 6) hospital staffed by one Assistant Surgeon, one Woman Assistant Surgeon, one Assistant Medical Officer, one compounder six midwives, one *aya*, one wardboy, one waterman, three vaccinators, one X-ray assistant, one Male Social Worker one cook and one sweeper. The number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated here during 1961 to 1970 is given below.

Table No XVI-7

Number of Patients Treated at Civil Hospital, Ganj Basoda

Year	Outdoor	Indoor
1961	1,05,603	3,717
1962	1,09,199	2,990
1963	1,05,835	3,607
1964	1,15,104	4,630
1965	1,33,444	3,359
1966	1,41,290	414
1967	90,646	189
1968	56,143	245
1969	77,374	317
1970	1,26,622	247

Civil Dispensaries

There are 4 civil dispensaries in the District located at Shamshabad, Gulabganj, Mohammadgarh and Pathari.

Established in 1936 during the Gwalior State regime, the civil dispensary at Shamshabad is located on the west of Shamshabad town. Originally this dispensary had no facilities for indoor treatment. In 1960-61 two small wards for general and maternity cases were constructed. In 1971 it had 8 beds, 4 general and 4 maternity. The dispensary was staffed by one Assistant Medical Officer and other usual staff. The average number of indoor and outdoor patients annually treated here during the period 1961 to 1970 was 2,379 and 26,063 respectively.

Established in 1951, civil dispensary at Gulabganj had only two emergency beds in 1970. An Assistant Medical Officer is in charge of the dispensary. The total number of patients offered treatment here annually during 1966-70 was 16,026; 15,644; 16,268 14,635 and 15,536 respectively.

The exact date of the opening of civil dispensary Mohammadgarh is not known, but it has been reported to be working since long. Treatment is offered only to out-patients. It is staffed by one Assistant Medical Officer along with other usual staff. The number of patients offered treatment here annually from 1966 to 1969 was 8937, 7520, 12,578 and 12,746 respectively.

The Civil Dispensary, Pathari was established in 1911. It has no facility for indoor treatment. It is staffed by one Medical Officer, one compounder, one dresser, two vaccinators, one *dai*, one wardboy and two others. The total number of outdoor patients annually treated here during 1966-1970 was 22345, 20176, 20408 and 28417, respectively.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

In 1968 there were five maternity and child welfare centres in the District, attached either to the primary health centres or to the civil dispensaries of the locality. All prenatal and postnatal medical treatment is offered to expectant mothers and infants, besides medical advice. The following Table gives their location, dates of opening and staff position at the end of March 1968.

Table No. XVI-8
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

S. No.	Name of the Centre	Date of opening	Staff Position		
			Doctor	Dais	ANMs
1.	Vidisha	1.7.1959	1	2	2
2.	Basoda	1.5.1961	—	1	2
3.	Shamshabad	N. A.	—	1	1
4.	Kurwai	1.1.1960	—	1	2
5.	Lateri	5.4.1962	—	1	1

Primary Health Centres

With a view to providing increased medical facilities to the rural population several primary health centres were opened in the District during the Plan period. These institutions are located in the Community Development and National Extension Service Block areas. The primary health centres which were established during the intensive phase of the Blocks were taken over by the Public Health Department as and when they entered their post intensive phase. Each primary health centre has three or more sub-centres to extend medical facilities to the interior. Each primary health centre is usually staffed by one Medical Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, one compounder, one dresser, one lady health visitor, four midwives, one wardboy, one peon, one sweeper, one *dhobi* and one waterman. A midwife is attached to each sub-centre. The Medical Officer incharge of a primary health centre visits each sub-centre once in a week. The staff position, however, varies according to the number of sub-centres and other requirements.

There are seven primary health centres in Vidisha District. Their names, location, year of opening, number of sub-centres and number of beds are given below.

Table No. XVI-9
Primary Health Centres and their Sub-Centres

Name of Primary Health Centre and Location	Date of Opening	Names of Sub-Centres	Beds		
			General		Maternity
			Male	Female	
1. Sironj	1.7.59	1. Siyalpur 2. Jaitpur 3. Geratha	12	8	—
2. Kurwai	1.1.60	1. Roshanpipariya 2. Shabarwata 3. Tekoo	16	8	6
3. Teonda	1.4.61	1. Derkhei 2. Ghatera	—	—	—
4. Lateri	5.4.62	—	—	—	—
5. Pipalkheda	18.3.63	1. Barri 2. Tharr 3. Ahamadpur	4	2	—
6. Gyaraspur	27.10.63	1. Haidergarh 2. Garhale 3. Gulabganj	—	—	—
7. Nateran	1.10.66	—	—	—	—

Expenditure on Medical and Public Health Activities

The expenditure incurred on medical and public health activities by Government hospitals and dispensaries annually during recent years is given below :

Table No. XVI-10

Expenditure on Medical and Public Health

Year	Expenditure
1966-67	4,35,047
1967-68	9,08,813
1968-69	3,65,360
1969-70	6,09,730
1970-71	6,64,590

Ayurvedic Dispensaries

In pursuance of a resolution passed at a Departmental Conference in 1924 at Shivpuri that the use of indigenous drugs should be freely extended throughout the erstwhile Gwalior State a number of *Ayurvedic* dispensaries were started during the next four decades. The District had 21 *ayurvedic* dispensaries run by the Government at the end of March 1968. They were located at Haidergarh, Teyonda, Nateran, Khamtala, Tharr, Bardha, Ahamadpur, Pipaldhar, Udaipur, Massodpur, Khadeh, Bareth. Pikhone, Barwai, Mugalsari, Muraria, Bamorishala, Anandpur, Deokhjoori, Khular and Barro. The *Ayurvedic* dispensary at Bareth is managed by the Tribal Welfare Department. Each dispensary is under a qualified *Vaidya*. Some of them are provided with a compounder each. Besides these the Municipal Committee, Vidisha, is maintaining an *ayurvedic* dispensary, staffed by one *vaidya*, one compounder, one vaccinator and one peon. More than 100 patients are being treated here daily.

Medical and Public Health Research Centres

There are no research centres in the District. Dissemination of knowledge of hygiene and public health is, however, offered through the agencies of family planning centres and voluntary organisations like Indian Red Cross Society, Indian Medical Association, etc.

Family Planning

In order to provide adequate medical advice to parents, especially to mothers, in bringing up healthy children and in planning their families, a revised and modified family planning programme was chalked out in 1957. Accordingly, a number of urban and rural family planning clinics were opened in quick succession. The various primary health centres in Block areas were the nuclei for family planning programme in rural areas.

For the propagation of family planning programme there is one District Family Planning Bureau at Vidisha, and three urban and six rural clinics located elsewhere in the District. Opened on 1st July 1959, the Bureau is staffed by the District Family Planning Officer, two District Extension Educators (one female), one Field Evaluation Worker, one Block Extension Educator, two Social Workers, one Male Field Worker and one Female Field Worker. Details regarding the urban and rural clinics, such as their location, dates of opening, staff position, etc., are given below :

*Table No. XVI-11**Family Planning Centres and their Staff Position*

S. No.	Name/Location of Family Planning Centre	Date of Opening	Staff Position		
			Block Extension Educator	Field Worker	Computer
URBAN					
1.	Basoda	N. A.	—	1	—
2.	Kurwai	1.1.1960	1	3	1
3.	Sironj	1.7.1952	1	2	1
RURAL					
1.	Gyaraspur	21.10.1963	1	2	1
2.	Tconda	1.4.1961	1	4	1
3.	Lateri	5.4.1962	1	2	1
4.	Pipalkheda	18.3.1963	1	2	1
5.	Nateran	1.10.1966	1	3	1
6.	Pathari	1.3.1961	—	1	—

Indian Red Cross Society

There is a District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society at Vidisha. The Collector and Civil Surgeon are the President and Secretary of the society, respectively. The society had 51 members on roll in 1968. Its activities include distribution of free medicines, diet, books and magazines among poor and needy patients, dissemination of knowledge of hygiene and public health, and control of epidemics, floods and famines.

Indian Medical Association

A District branch of the Indian Medical Association was opened at Vidisha in October, 1961. It had about 20 members on roll in 1968. The Association holds monthly meetings in which topics of clinical interest are discussed. The Association also makes its contribution for flood relief, prevention of epidemics and the propagation of family planning programme.

Sanitation

Details regarding the sanitary arrangements that existed in the District earlier are not available. The following passage from the Administration Report of Gwalior State will speak of such facilities provided by the erstwhile State. "To see towards cleanliness and sanitation of villages and to provide at State expense the means of water supply where it was scarce, were, since long, the duties of Pargana Revenue Officers and consequently a considerable number of wells and tanks were constructed by the Revenue and Irrigation Departments for drinking purposes of villagers and their cattle".¹ The revenue officers were, strictly speaking, only a supervisory staff, for the responsibility actually rested with the Panchayat Boards, constituted in 1912. This being so for rural sanitation, the municipalities were mainly responsible for sanitary arrangements in the urban area.

With the passing of the Madhya Bharat Panchayat Act, 1949 Sanitation in rural areas is being looked after by the respective gram panchayats. However, this responsibility rests with the Blocks in respect of areas under their jurisdiction. The primary health centres established in the block areas are the chief centres of these activities. The medical officer of the primary health centre acts as Health Officer for that area, assisted by the Health Visitor and the Sanitary Inspector. The work done by the seven Blocks in the District, namely, Vidisha, Gyaraspur, Basoda, Nateran, Kurwai, Pathari and Sironj for improving sanitation and conservancy arrangements include the construction of 2164.4 m. of surface drainage, 1871 Latrines, 2135 Soakage pits, and installation.

1. Gwalior State Administration Report, 1934-35, p. 61.

of 24 hand pumps during the Second Plan period. During the Third Plan period, 86 hand pumps were installed.

Water Supply

Supply of pure drinking water in urban areas is generally the responsibility of the respective municipal committees. However, in Vidisha town pipe water is being supplied by the Public Health Engineering Department.

Pipe water supply is not available in any of the other towns in Vidisha District. The town dwellers depend upon water drawn from wells and tanks. And whenever there is scarcity of drinking water, the municipal committee takes necessary steps to make it available to the public through trolleys and other means. Kurwai, Ganj Basoda, and Sironj municipal committees are going a head with water supply schemes.

In the rural areas the gram panchayats and the Development Blocks make arrangements for adequate supply of drinking water by constructing new wells and repairing old ones. Facilities provided by various Blocks in the District in this regard during the Plan period are given below.

Table No. XVI—11
Water Supply in Blocks

Plan	New drinking wells constructed	Existing drinking wells repaired	Stepwells closed
I Plan	Nil	Nil	N. A.
II Plan	97	77	N. A.
III Plan	208	134	N. A.

Drainage and Slum Clearance

In Vidisha town this work is being looked after by the Public Health Engineering Department. In Sironj town drains are being cleaned by *bhisthis* employed by the municipal committee. The municipal committee of Kurwai is contemplating a scheme of drainage for the town.

In rural areas this work is the responsibility of the Panchayats and Development Blocks. The work done by the Blocks in respect of surface drainage during the Plan period has already been given under the head 'Sanitation'.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Prohibition

In principle, the former Madhya Bharat Government was committed to the policy of discouraging use of intoxicants by the people and introducing total prohibition. In practice, however, it followed a cautious policy of implementing prohibition by stages. To begin with, the Madhya Bharat Government introduced total prohibition of liquor, opium and *ganja* from the 12th December, 1948, in former Bhilsa district including Mohammadgarh, Pathari and Kurwai.

Consequently, all the shops selling country liquor (74 in number) and opium and *ganja* (61 in number) of Bhilsa district, yielding an excise revenue of about Rs. 2,34,500 in 1947-48 were closed. However,

Measures Taken provisions were made for supply of these intoxicants to addicts on the basis of medical certificates. The addicts used to get their prescribed quota from Government store-houses. In case of imported foreign liquor and Indian foreign liquor (indigenous liquor bearing the name and to some extent quality of imported liquor) the quota was of six and two bottles, respectively, while in respect of country liquor it was two bottles a month. Prohibition was extended to Sironj and Lateri tahsils in November, 1956. After reorganisation of Madhya Pradesh, the Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act was made applicable in the District.

Special staff consisting of one Assistant Prohibition officer, one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables and fifteen Constables, was entrusted with the work of prevention, detection and prosecution of offenders under the Prohibition Rules. A prohibition propagandist was also appointed. Subsequently, the special staff was also strengthened by increasing the number of Head Constables to four and that of constables to 40. One Prohibition Propagandist was appointed for Sironj Tahsil also.

With a view to checking illicit distillation of liquor from *mahua*⁴ which grows in abundance in this "dry" area also, Mahua Control Rules were framed and enforced in the District. These Rules were further modified to tighten the provisions relating to possession and sale of *mahua* for consumption as food and fodder.

Anti-drink Committee, consisting of Collector as its President, District Excise Officer as its Secretary and eight non-officials as members, at District level and Anti-drink Committees at tahsil level and at important large villages and towns were organised. To carry on anti-intoxicant propaganda, Government of Madhya Bharat published a book called *Madya Nishedha*. Every year Prohibition Day was celebrated on 2nd October, throughout the District. On this day processions and meetings were organised and audio-visual aids like cinema slides, posters and placards were exploited to full use. As a safeguard against smuggling and with a view to minimising the temptation to visit shops of intoxicants across the prohibition border, arrangements were made to close all shops within eight km. in wet areas around this dry District. These shopless zones were further extended to the limit of 16 km. since 1951.

Applications for permits presented by addicts on medical grounds were submitted for special scrutiny and every effort was made to further minimise gradually the number of permits and the quantity of intoxicants prescribed on them on medical ground. The yearwise number of permits thus issued in the District for liquor (country and foreign), opium and *ganja* during the years from 1949-50 to 1967-68 are given in Appendix. The subsequent table in the Appendix gives the quantity of liquor (in proff litres) consumed by the permit holders in the period 1954-55 to 1967-68.

Penalty, which provided for a fine of Rs. 500 and or imprisonment, extending to two months was included under the Prohibition Rules of Madhya Bharat. Under Section 35 of the Excise Act and Section 7 of Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act the penalty was six months' imprisonment or fine of Rs. 1,000 or both.

Difficulties Encountered in Enforcement

This was the only District in which prohibition was enforced in the former Madhya Bharat. It was surrounded by wet areas on three sides and this created a great difficulty in enforcing the prohibition successfully. Wet areas around gave temptation and a chance to addicts to visit them. Even others, who were not addicts took to smuggling, as it proved very profitable. These smugglers were generally equipped with cars or jeeps and revolvers to encounter any possible raid of the poorly equipped excise force. Another major problem for the Excise Department was to detect the crimes of illicit distillation. Illicit distillation became more or less the principal means of livelihood for many persons in the District. The number of cases detected under illicit distillation, smuggling and others including *ganja* and opium cases during the years 1955-56 to 1967-68 are given in Appendix. People, in general, being

Smuggling and Illicit
Distillation

afraid of anti-social elements like smugglers and illicit distillers rarely came forward for helping the prohibition staff in its work of detection and prosecution of culprits. Thus public co-operation required for success in such cases was conspicuous by its absence.

There was neither Government prosecutor nor a Counsel to plead prohibition cases. Excise Inspector alone had to appear in the court to prove the breach of law. On the other hand, the culprits had the benefit of engaging an experienced lawyer. Generally cases could not be proved because of the legal lacunae and the addicts got away with it.

The strength of prohibition staff, which was inadequate, was further reduced gradually. In 1962, there were only one Head Constable and eight Constables as against four and forty, respectively. This had created difficulties in detecting crimes. Appendix gives number of persons prosecuted, convicted, imprisoned and fine realised from them for prohibition offences in the years from 1955-56 to 1967-68.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh terminated prohibition from Vidisha District also, with effect from 1st September 1967 and the District again became a wet area.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

The details of Scheduled castes and tribes are given in Chapter III. There are 20 castes and 7 tribes enumerated in the District under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List (Modification) Order, 1956.

The total population of these castes and tribes in the District (as enumerated in 1961) was 1,02,352 and 21,223, respectively, the percentages to the total population of the District being 21 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. As many as 91.91 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and 99.31 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes lived in the rural area of the District. From ages these Castes and Tribes had remained backward in all respects and hence formed the lowest strata of the Indian Society in general. In the post-Independence period the Government and a few other voluntary social service organisations have taken steps for their advancement.

Social Advancement

Socially, *Harijans* were regarded as untouchables and they were expected not to mix with the Caste Hindus and appear at public places like temples, schools, wells, market, etc. The first important step towards their social adva

ancement dates back to the year 1945, when the ruler of the erstwhile Gwalior State threw open to *Harijans* all state temples, public schools, Government wells and other public places by an announcement. The announcement was followed by a few other reforms. All the *Harijans* in Gwalior State were granted the same rights of citizenship enjoyed by the high castes. Besides, some *Harijans* were also nominated to the Praja Sabha of the state and the District and *Pargana* Boards.

The first legislative measure for removal of civil and social disabilities of *Harijans* was adopted in 1947, when the *Harijan* disability. Removal Act was passed and brought into force. After the formation of Madhya Bharat, *Harijan* social Disabilities Removal Act repealed the old Act in 1948-49. Any kind of discrimination between *Harijans* and non-*Harijans* in social occupations, employment, places of entertainment, business, etc., was declared an offence under this new Act.

The Madhya Bharat Government established three Jeevan Vikas Kendras or centres in the District to work in the direction of eradicating untouchability and improve the social standard of the *Harijans*. Each centre run by a Harijan Sewak was entrusted with propaganda against untouchability. During the First Five Year Plan Period (1951-56) the Government spent Rs. 12,905 on these centres of the District. In addition to it Zila Dalit Varga Sangh of Bhilsa received a Government grant of Rs. 10,000 in the same period and for the same purpose.

From the first June, 1955, Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, was made applicable to the District, repealing the old Act. This Act being more elaborate provided safeguards to the *Harijans* and made observance of untouchability in any form an offence. The Table given in Appendix shows the number of offences, registered under this Act in Vidisha District during the years from 1957-58 to 1970.

Economic and Other Advancement

As late as 1961, when detailed data regarding the occupational classification of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was collected, it was found that their economic condition was far from satisfactory. The data revealed that about 56 per cent persons of these Castes and Tribes were enumerated as workers (about 55 per cent persons of the Scheduled Castes and about 60 per cent persons of the Scheduled Tribes).

Of the total working force of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (1961) of about 76 per cent were engaged in agriculture. Out of them 39 per cent were cultivators, while 37 per cent were agricultural labourers. About 12 per cent population of Scheduled Castes in the District were engaged in 'Other Services'

and 12 per cent were enumerated in 'Household Industries' and other occupations.

The picture of their economy becomes more clear when we take into consideration the cultivating households of these Castes and Tribes of the District, mostly concentrated in the rural areas. In 1961, it was found that, of the Scheduled Castes cultivating households, about 75 per cent had either their own land or held it from the Government. Land of private persons or institutions was held by about 10 per cent of households. About 15 per cent household held land partly from the Government and partly from the private persons. These last two categories of households held land for payment in money or share of the produce.

As regards the Scheduled Tribe households of the rural areas of the District it was found in 1961 that about 82 per cent of them held their own or Government land. About 10 per cent held land from private persons or institutions. About 8 per cent households held partly from the Government and partly from private persons for payment in cash or kind.

The study of individual land holdings revealed that a large number of rural cultivating households of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes did not hold sufficient land, which could provide enough return for the bare subsistence of their families. The data collected at the Census of 1961 are tabulated below :-

Table No. XVII-1

Land Holdings

Acres of Land held	Held by percentage rural cultivating Households of	
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
Less than one acre	3.29	4.69
1.0 to 2.4	4.54	11.72
2.5 to 4.9	15.04	25.39
5.0 to 7.4	21.88	23.05
7.5 to 9.9	19.05	12.05
10.0 to 12.4	10.92	7.81
12.5 to 14.9	6.78	4.69
15.0 to 29.9	15.08	8.98
30.0 to 49.9	2.69	1.19
50 and above	0.65	—

Land Allotment

With a view to improving the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the District the Government of the State had taken various measures during the Plan periods and in subsequent years. Economy of these Castes and Tribes being mainly agricultural, the Government allotted lands for cultivation to the landless persons of these Castes and Tribes. The table below gives the details.

*Table No. XVII-2**Land Allotted*

Period	Land Allotted to			
	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes	
	Persons	Acres	Persons	Acres
First Plan (1951-56)	38	285	4	45
Second Plan (1956-61)	1,346	5,885	1,925	8,562
Third Plan (1961-66)	208	1,252	427	3,442

Agricultural Subsidy

During the Third Plan period the Government had given an amount of Rs. 1,700 to 39 Scheduled Caste families of the District as agricultural subsidy. For the development of Agriculture, 51 *Harijan* and *Adivasi* families were given Rs. 87, 250 in 1967-68.

Government extended financial, technical and all other assistance to candidates of these Castes and Tribes under 'Rural Arts and Crafts Scheme'. A Leather Goods Centre was started at Vidisha in September, 1959, which trained three batches of trainees in leather goods industry. Such a centre was run at Sironj from September, 1960. In the subsequent year a Centre was opened at Kurwai. From 22nd April, 1963, the same centre started functioning again and it trained two batches of trainees. At Gyaspur and Nateran similar centres worked in 1964 and 1965, respectively. The Centre at Vidisha trained 32 candidates of the Scheduled Castes from the year 1959-60 to 1961-62. In 1961-62 Ladies Tailoring Centre was also started at Vidisha. About Rs. 2, 900 were spent on the Centre. The Centre at Sironj trained 14 candidates expending Rs. 12,785 in 1960-61 and 1961-62. Kurwai centre in 1961-62 and 1962-63 trained 19 candidates at a cost of Rs. 14,600. Rs. 4,633 were spent

on Gyaraspur Centre, which trained 17 trainees in 1964-65. From 1963-64 to 1965-66 Basoda centre spent about Rs. 23,000 and gave training to 23 trainees. At Nateran, besides leather goods centre, Ladies Tailoring centre also worked in 1965-66. An amount of Rs. 10,000 were spent on these two Centres.

Loans

The Industries Department during the plan periods granted loans under the State Aid to Industries Act to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Details of the loan are given below :-

Table No. XVII-3

Loans Granted

Period	Industry	Loans in Rs. to		Loans to their Co-operative Societies	
		Persons	Rs.	No.	Rs.
II Plan	Leather	40	21,200	4	12,050
	Bamboo	7	5,500	1	800
	Mat manufacturing	...	...	1	800
III Plan	Leather	39	27,680	3	10,800
	Bamboo	4	1,500	...	...
	Mat	...	...	1	1,300

In 1967-68 and 1968-69, Rs. 6,600 and Rs. 4,800 were given as loans to 24 and 11 persons of these Castes, respectively, for leather industry. Besides, Rs. 5,000 were given as loan for small scale industries to 21 families of the Scheduled Castes from 1963-64 to 1967-68.

Legal Aid

Under the scheme of legal aid to the needy persons of these Castes and Tribes Rs. 1,115 were given during the years 1963-64 to 1967-68.

Co-operative Societies

For the economic welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes as many as 22 co-operative societies were organised in the District till the year 1966. Of these 22 societies only one society was working as multi-purpose Co-operative Society, while others were doing only credit business, i e., advancing loans to their members. In 1968, one farming society of the *Harijans* was formed. One non-credit *Harijan* Society and two farming societies were-

organised in 1969. The number of collective farming societies organised for the *Harijans*, *Adiwasis* and other Backward Classes was 34 in 1970. Their share capital ranged from Rs. 130 to 750.

Drinking Water-Wells

Till the end of the First Five Year Plan period two wells for the Scheduled Castes and two wells for the Scheduled Tribes were constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,550/- and Rs. 4,000/- respectively. An amount of Rs. 52,218 on 28 wells for *Harijans* and Rs. 1,558 on one well for *Adiwasis* was spent during the Second Five Year Plan period (1956-57 to 1960-61). In the Third Five Year Plan period (1960-61 to 1965-66) Rs. 64,000 were spent on sinking 32 wells for *Harijans*. In the same period four wells at a cost of Rs. 8,500 were constructed for the *Adiwasis*. One well for the *Harijans* at a cost of Rs. 2,500 was constructed in 1967-68.

Housing Colonies

The Government introduced a scheme of housing colonies for the Scheduled Tribes and *Vimukta Jatis* of the District. These colonies are at Bareth, Bhilaya and Amrit-kam village for Scheduled Tribes while the fourth one is at village Bhilaya for the *Vimukta Jatis* (ex-criminal Tribes). As many as 110 families are accommodated in these four colonies constructed at a cost of Rs. 1,38,100.

Medical Facilities

The Tribal Welfare Department of the State is running an Ayurvedic Dispensary at village Bareth since 1957.

Representation in Government Services , Local Bodies and State Legislature

Efforts have been made to recruit more and more *Harijans* and *Adiwasis* to all categories of public services vide Government's Notification No. 6678-C. R. 740-1 dated the 19th August 1958. With these instructions, the Government ensured fair and adequate representation to the various classes of the population in the services without prejudice to the standard and efficiency of administration. This resulted in the public services of the State being broad-based and generally representative of all sections of the people. All these reservations are for the purpose of direct recruitment. In furtherance of this policy, reservation of 15 and 18 per cent posts in class I and class II services has been made for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, respectively. The reservation in Class III and class IV posts for them is to

the extent of 16 and 20 per cent respectively. In matter of promotion, the appointing authorities are expected to examine the cases of these classes with particular care and even with a certain amount of sympathy, so that their claims are not disregarded in any way. Besides this, they are also exempted from the payment of application, registration and examination fees, which are taken from the candidates of other communities for recruitment. In certain cases, the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also paid travelling allowance for the journeys performed by them in connection with interviews. Moreover, a relaxation of five years in the normal upper age-limit for entry into public services is also allowed to the candidates of these Classes. These instructions are also applied for recruitment to the services of local bodies in the State.

For the purpose of election to the local bodies, provisions for the reservation of seats also exist. Under section 29(iii) of the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Act, 1961, the State Government is empowered to fix in accordance with the provision of the Constitution of India, the number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and allotted them to the various wards.

Adequate arrangements for giving representation to these classes in the State and Union Legislatures have also been made. For this purpose Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies are reserved for them. Only a person of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, can contest election from such reserved constituencies. During the First and Second General Elections, one seat in the Double Member Vidisha Assembly Constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. This constituency continued to be reserved for Scheduled Castes during Third General Elections also, when it was made a Single-Member Constituency, while in the Fourth General Elections Basoda Assembly Constituency in the District was reserved for these people.

Efforts of Local Bodies

Apart from the Government efforts for the betterment of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes, the local bodies of the District are also paying adequate attention to improve the living and working conditions of their employees engaged in sanitary work, and belonging to the Scheduled Castes. There are some facilities which are given uniformly by all the local bodies of the District in accordance with the rules and regulations framed from time to time for the purpose. These facilities include benefit of leave, service conditions, supply of uniforms, medical facilities, etc. Besides, some facilities have also been provided by the local bodies individually. For instance the Municipal Committee, Vidisha, has purchased 72 wheel burrows at a cost of Rs. 5,716. These have been supplied to the persons engaged in

scavenging and thus the practice of carrying night soil as head-load has been abolished. Similarly quarters have also been constructed by Vidisha Municipality for its Harijan employees. It spends about Rs. 4,000 annually on the uniform of *Harijans*.

The Municipal Committee of Basoda has also supplied 13 hand-crafts and 26 drums to the *Harijans* engaged in scavenging. It has also constructed 12 quarters and allotted them to its employees at a nominal rent of Rs. 4 per month. It also supplied uniforms to its *Harijan* employees.

Public Trusts

All the Public Trusts of the District are governed by the Madhya Pradesh Public Trusts Act, 1951, which provided effectual control over the administration of the Trusts made for charitable and religious purposes. The Collector of Vidisha District functions as the Registrar of Public Trusts at District level, and the Sub-Divisional Officers at Tahsil level. All the Public Trusts of the District are required to get themselves registered with the Registrar. The Registrar, therefore, looks after the proper management and functioning of only such trusts as are registered with him under the said Act. The registered Trusts are further required by the Act to open their account either in a Scheduled Bank or in a Post Office Saving Bank and to deposit their funds therein. The Manager, or Secretary, as the case may be, of the Trusts, is, however, authorised to spend only such amount as is normally needed for the smooth and proper running of the day to day essential activities of the Trusts. The annual budgets of the Public Trusts are prepared by their respective Committees and sent to the Registrar for his approval. The account of each trust is subject to audit and inspection by the Local Fund Audit Department but generally local auditors are appointed by the Registrar to check and certify correctness of these accounts. Information of a few important Public Trusts is given below.

Shreemant Danaweer Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Paramarthik Sansthanika Trust, Vidisha

Laxmichand Jain had first registered this Trust created by him in 1935. In 1961 its registration was renewed. The present value of all the properties of the trust is about Rs. 20 lakhs. The trust runs the following institutions.

1. Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Degree College, Vidisha.
2. Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Higher Secondary School Vidisha.
3. Shri Sheetalanatha Jain Middle School, Vidisha.

4. Shrimati Saubhagyavati Bai Jain Girls Middle School, Vidisha.
5. Shri Rajmal Badjatya Jain Shishu Mandir, Vidisha.
6. Mateshwari Shakkar Bai Jain Scholarship Fund, Vidisha.
7. Shrimant Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Sahityoddharak Fund Vidisha.
8. Shrimant Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Charitable Dispensary, Vidisha.
9. Shrimant Seth Sitab Rai Laxmichand Jain Dharmashala.
10. Shri Shantinatha Swami Digambar Jain Mandir.

Shri Samantabhadra Jain Paramarthik Trust, Sironj

Late Vaidya Hukumchand Jain, investing Rs. 10,000 created this trust in 1943-44. In 1955, it was registered with a view to run (1) Digambar Jain Mahilashram and (2) Digambar Jain Boys Hostel, both at Sironj. Of these only the former institution is awarding benefit to about 150 students annually. During the last five years (1963 to 1968) about Rs. 6,600 were received as income from interest, rent of the building and donations by the Trust. In the same period it spent about Rs. 5,550 on its activities.

Shri Taran Taran Digambar Jain Trust, Basoda

The trust was established at Basoda in 1951 by Seth Ratichand Ramlal Jain. The trust opened a high school in 1951, which was upgraded to an Intermediate College. In 1964, the trust operated a degree College, which was later on taken over by the Government.

Waqfs

The Madhya Pradesh Public Trust Act, 1951 has excluded from its operation, vide section 2 sub-section (8) thereof, all such Muslim Waqfs, which are meant exclusively for Muslims and are not strictly for the benefit of public as defined in it. All such Waqfs come within the purview of the Central Muslim Waqfs Act (XXIX of 1954) as amended by Waqfs Amendment Act 1959 which came into force on 9th January 1960 and provided for better administration and supervision of Waqfs. All the Waqfs of the District are under the administrative control of the Madhya Pradesh Muslim Waqfs Board, Bhopal. So far, as many as 273 waqfs of Vidisha District have been registered with the Madhya Pradesh Muslim Waqfs Board, Bhopal. Out of these nine are educational, 131 partly religious and partly charitable and 133 religious. The largest number of Waqfs, i. e. 156 are in Sironj Tahsil followed by Lateri with 44 Waqfs. Of the Waqfs of Sironj, only six are educational as against 77 partly religious and partly charitable and 73 purely religious.

In Lateri 34 waqfs are partly religious and partly charitable and 10 purely religious. The third, from the point of view of numerical strength, is Vidisha Tahsil which has 34 Waqfs including two educational, six partly religious and partly charitable and 26 purely religious. Next comes Kurwai Tahsil with 32 Waqfs (one educational, nine partly religious and partly charitable and 22 purely religious) as against 7 Waqfs of Basoda Tahsil of which five are partly religious and partly charitable and two purely religious.



CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation of the District in Union Legislature

In the first three General Elections to Lok Sabha, held in 1951-52, 1957 and 1962 respectively, Vidisha District was included in the Single-Member Guna Lok Sabha Constituency. The member returned in those Elections represented the District in Lok Sabha, constituted in 1952 and reconstituted in 1957 and again in 1962. Details of these three Lok Sabha Elections held in Guna Lok Sabha Constituency are tabulated below :

Table No. XVIII-1

Lok Sabha Elections (1951-52 to 1962)

Name of the Constituency	Year of Election	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 4 to 3
1	2	3	4	5
Guna	1951-52	3,78,353	1,38,858	37.70
Guna	1957	4,41,820	1,77,099	40.08
Guna	1962	4,81,461	2,13,679	44.36

For the Fourth General Elections to Lok Sabha, held in 1967, Lok Sabha constituencies underwent, in respect of extent, a great change. Vidisha and Raisen districts were included in Vidisha Lok Sabha Constituency. The member, elected in 1967 by this Constituency, represented the District in the Fourth Lok Sabha, which was dissolved in December 1970. Mid-term or Fifth General Elections to Lok Sabha took place in 1971 and the number

selected by Vidisha Lok Sabha Constituency represented the District in the Fifth Lok Sabha. Details of these two Elections are as given below :

Table No. XVIII-2

Lok Sabha Elections (1967 and 1971)

Name of the Constituency	Year of Election	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 4 to 3
1	2	3	4	5
Vidisha	1967	5,08,302	2,76,941	54.29
Vidisha	1971 (Mid-term)	5,53,532	2,90,918	52.55

Representation in State Legislature

After the First General Elections to the Madhya Bharat State Legislative Assembly, held in 1951-52, the District was represented in the State Legislative Assembly by four members. These members were elected in 1951-52 by the voters of the three respective Legislative Assembly constituencies in which the District, then known as Bhilsa, was divided. One of the three constituencies, by name Bhilsa, was a Two-Member Constituency. Of the two seats of Bhilsa Constituency one was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Other details of these constituencies, as existing during the General Elections of 1951-52 were as shown below :

Table No. XVIII-3

Vidhan Sabha Elections (1951-52)

Name of the Constituency	Total No. of Electors	Total no. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 4 to 3
1	2	3	4	5
Bhilsa	78,274	1,56,748	53,710	34.26
Basoda	39,458	39,458	14,573	36.93
Kurwai	20,058	30,058	12,804	32.97

Subsequently, bye-elections were held in the Two-Member Bhilsa Assembly Constituency in which total number of votes was 1,56,748, while the total number of valid votes polled at the time of bye-election was 70,999. Percentage of valid votes to the total number of votes was 45.3.

Second General Elections to the Madhya Pradesh State Legislature were held in 1957. During these Elections the Vidhan Sabha constituencies of the District, henceforth called Vidisha, had undergone a change, though the number of constituencies and the number of representatives to be elected witnessed change.

One seat of the Two-Member Vidisha Constituency, was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The details of these Elections, which took place in the three constituencies of the District, are tabulated below :

Table No. XVIII-4
Vidhan Sabha Elections (1957)

Name of the Constituency	Total No. of Electors	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 4
1	2	3	4	5
Vidisha	1,08,218	2,16,436	90,726	41.9
Sironj	51,868	51,868	18,605	35.9
Kurwai	53,869	53,869	25,650	47.6

In pursuance of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961 the Two-Member Vidisha Constituency was bifurcated into Vidisha and Basoda Vidhan Sabha Constituencies for the third General Elections to Vidhan Sabha held in 1962. This increased the number of Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the District from three to four. The four members, elected from these constituencies, represented the District in the State Legislature. Vidisha Constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Results of Elections held in 1962 can be seen from the Election figures given below :

Table No. XVIII-5
Vidhan Sabha Elections (1962)

Name of the Constituency	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
1	2	3	4
Vidisha	64,904	27,435	42.27
Basoda	60,942	28,334	46.49
Kurwai	60,123	26,079	43.37
Sironj	60,364	29,330	48.58

For the Fourth General Elections to the Vidhan Sabha, the constituencies of the District remained unchanged. The only change made was that Vidisha Constituency no longer remained a reserved Constituency. In its place Basoda constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Thus members elected by the voters of these four constituencies represented the District in the Vidhan Sabha after the General Elections of 1957. Election results are given below :

Table No. XVIII-6
Vidhan Sabha Elections (1967)

Name of the Constituency	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
1	2	3	4
Vidisha	67,248	37,623	85.94
Basoda	71,708	50,393	56.32
Kurwai	69,193	42,421	61.31
Sironj	71,551	38,411	53.68

Fifth General Elections to Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha were held in March, 1972. During these elections constituencies of the District witnessed no change. Four representatives of the District were elected and they represented Vidisha District in the Fifth Vidhan Sabha. Election results of 1972 are shown below :

Table No. XVIII-7
Vidhan Sabha Elections (1972)

Name of the Constituency	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
1	2	3	4
Vidisha	79,885	47,441	59.03
Basoda	82,286	43,297	52.60
Kurwai	79,938	51,569	64.51
Sironj	83,387	43,804	52.53

*Political Parties**Congress*

The candidate of the Party fought the First General Elections to Lok Sabha in 1951-52, from Guna Lok Sabha Constituency. The Party secured 53,549 valid votes out of 1,38,858 valid votes polled in the Constituency and lost it as the victorious candidate secured 56,518 valid votes. In the Second General Elections of 1957, the candidate of the Congress captured Guna Lok Sabha seat, securing 1,18,578 valid votes out of 1,77,099 total valid votes polled in the Constituency. The Party retained the seat in 1962 also, as its candidate won 1,00,135 valid votes out of 2,13,679 valid votes polled. In 1967 General Elections, the Party lost Vidisha Lok Sabha Constituency seat. Its candidate received 32,820 valid votes, as against 1,57,963 obtained by the successful candidate, out of 2,75,941 total valid votes polled in the Constituency. In the 1971 Mid-term Elections too, the Party could not capture the seat. Its candidate got 1,10,322 valid votes, while the successful candidate polled 1,51,386 valid votes.

The Party fought elections to Vidhan Sabha for all the four seats of the three constituencies covering the District but won only one seat of Kurwai Constituency. Here the Congress got 6,244 valid votes out of a total number of 12,804. In Double-Member Bhilsa Constituency, candidates of the Party could obtain 12,750 and 10,889 valid votes, as against 13,669 and 12,452 valid votes, secured by successful contestants. In Basoda Constituency too its candidate lost the election securing 5,880 valid votes. The successful candidate polled 7,719 valid votes in Basoda Constituency. In subsequent bye-election in Bhilsa Two-Member Constituency, however, the Party wrested both the seats from opposition. Its candidates secured 20,641 (General seat) and 16,908 (Reserved seat) valid votes out of 70,999 valid votes polled in the Constituency.

In the Second General Elections of 1957, the Party contested all the four seats of the three constituencies of the District and won all but one seat of Sironj Constituency. In Kurwai Constituency its candidate secured 16,692 valid votes out of 25,650 polled. In Vidisha (General) the candidate of the Party received 22,543 and in Reserved seat its candidate got 24,753 valid votes out of 90,726 valid votes cast in that Constituency for two seats. In Sironj Constituency the candidate of the Congress got 8,256 as against 8,420 valid votes got by the winning candidate.

In the Third General Elections of 1962, Congress candidates succeeded only in two constituencies, viz., Kurwai and Basoda, while in the remaining Vidisha (Reserved) and Sironj constituencies the party Vidhan Sabha General could not gain success. The party received 14,893 in Elections, (1962) Kurwai and 11,413 valid votes in Basoda constituencies out of 26,079 and 28,334 valid votes polled there, respectively. Its candidate in Vidisha remained behind the successful candidate by a margin of only 282 votes. The Congress candidate received 12,201 as against 12,483 valid votes obtained by the successful candidate.

The Party received a set-back in The Fourth General Elections of 1967 to Vidhan Sabha as all its four contesting candidates were defeated. They could secure 9,517 in Kurwai, 7394 in Vidisha, 7,818 in Vidhan Sabha General Basoda and 12,670 in Sironj constituencies as against Elections, 1956 the valid votes polled by victorious candidates in following order : 28,431 in Kurwai, 25,151 in Vidisha, 29,797 in Basoda (Reserved) and 19,665 in Sironj. In subsequent bye-election too, held in 1970 in Vidisha Constituency, the Party could not regain the seat.

The Congress Party contested all the four seats of the four Vidhan Sabha constituencies of the District during the Fifth General Elections, held in March, 1972. This time the Party improved its position in the Vidhan Sabha General District, by capturing two seats of Vidisha and Sironj Election, 1972 constituencies. In the former Constituency, the candidate of the Congress Party won the election in a triangular fight. The Party secured 23,612 valid votes. Its candidate in Sironj Constituency was also locked into a three-cornered fight. He won the election as he got 21,192 valid votes. In Kurwai Constituency a Congress nominee was defeated in a direct fight by the Jana Sangh candidate. He could get 22,527 valid votes. In the four-cornered fight in Basoda Constituency, the Congress candidate polled 15,798 valid votes, and he was defeated by a Jana Sangh candidate.

Socialist Party

A candidate of the party only once unsuccessfully contested Guna Lok Sabha seat in 1951-52. He polled only 6,592 valid votes out of 1,38,858. As regards the Elections to Vidhan Sabha, only one candidate contested unsuccessfully Kurwai seat. The candidate got only 1,452 valid votes out of 12,804. The Party candidates again tried their luck in 1967 in Vidisha and Basoda Vidhan Sabha constituencies in which they could secure only 345 and 430 valid votes and thus lost the elections.

The only Socialist Party candidate who fought the election from Sironj Constituency in 1972 secured 1,846 valid votes and lost the deposit,

Praja Socialist Party

The party did not enter elections to Lok Sabha. In Vidhan Sabha Elections it figured in the bye-election in Two-Member Vidisha Constituency, held subsequent to 1951-52 Elections. Both of its candidates failed to get elected. They could get only 1,680 and 984 valid votes. In the Elections of 1962, one candidate of the party secured only 589 valid votes in Reserved Vidisha Constituency and lost the election.

Samyukta Socialist Party

The Party put up its candidate only in 1967 to fight the Vidhan Sabha seat of Sironj. He could secure only 363 valid votes and thus lost his deposit.

Communist Party of India

General Elections to Lok Sabha were not contested by the Party. As regards Vidhan Sabha Elections, the Party set up its two candidates in 1951-52 to contest both the seats of the Two-Member Bhilsa Constituency. Both of them were defeated as they could get only 1,350 and 601 valid votes. In 1962 again, two members of the party contested unsuccessfully Kurwai and Vidisha Vidhan Sabha seats. They polled only 943 and 1,113 valid votes, respectively.

Hindu Mahasabha

During the first three General Elections of 1951-52, 1957 and 1962 the Party set up its candidate for contesting Guna Parliamentary seat. The Party succeeded, however, in capturing the seat only in 1951-52 when it could secure 56,518 valid votes as against 53,549 obtained by its next immediate rival. In 1957, its candidate received 58,523 valid votes while the successful Congress nominee secured 1,18,578 valid votes. In 1962 also, Mahasabha nominee could get 80,409 valid votes and thus lost the seat, as the victorious Congress candidate polled 1,00,125 valid votes. At the time of the Fourth General Elections, held in 1967, the Party lost its recognition as an All India Political Party and therefore it backed an independent candidate, fighting the Lok Sabha Election from Vidisha Constituency. The candidate failed even to save his deposit as he got only 12,482 valid votes. In 1971, the Party was absent during Mid-term polls.

During the First General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, the candidates of the Mahasabha contested all the four seats of the District and won three of them.

The Party candidate in Kurwai Constituency alone lost the election, securing 3,490 votes, as against 6,244 polled by the successful Congress nominee. In the Double-Member Bhilsa Constituency both the successful candidates of the Mahasabha got 12,452 and 13,669 valid votes, while in Basoda constituency its winning candidate secured 7,719 votes defeating his immediate rival candidate of the Congress, who secured 5,880 valid votes. In subsequent bye-election in Bhilsa Constituency, the candidates of this party could get 16,342 and 12,990 votes and lost both the seats to Congress nominees.

The Mahasabha was in the field during the Second General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, held in 1957 and fought all the four seats. This time the Mahasabha was defeated in the Two-Member Vidisha and Kurwai constituencies, the candidates getting 29,128 and 14,735 votes in Vidisha and 8,166 in Kurwai constituencies.

In Sironj Constituency, however, the party succeeded in winning the seat. Its candidate secured 8,420 votes as against 8,256 secured by the Congress nominee. The candidates of the party fought all the four seats of Vidhan Sabha allotted to the District in the general election of 1962. Out of these two seats, one of Vidisha (Reserved) and the other of Sironj, were gained by the Mahasabha. In Vidisha its candidate obtained 12,483 votes, while in Sironj the party candidate secured 14,623 votes. In Kurwai and Basoda constituencies the party received defeat at the hands of the Congress. Its candidates here got 8,315 and 9,548 votes. In the Fourth General Elections the party backed four independent candidates, as it lost its recognition. All these four candidates could not even save their deposits. They secured 1,769 in Kurwai, 2,336 in Vidisha, 1,113 in Basoda and 1,888 valid votes in Sironj.

Rama Rajya Parishad

The parishad remained absent in the field of Elections to Lok Sabha. As to the Election to the Vidhan Sabha the Parishad took a hand in elections from Bhilsa (General seat) and Basoda constituencies during the 1st General Elections of 1951-52. But it was defeated. Its candidates got 1,999 and 172 valid votes in those constituencies, respectively. In 1957 again the candidates of the parishad were in the field in Vidisha (General seat), Kurwai and Sironj constituencies and all failed to win. Kurwai, Vidisha and Sironj constituencies cast only 792, 1814 and 335 valid votes, respectively, in their favour. The Parishad never again made efforts to remain in the field.

Swatantra Party

Only once one candidate in the name of this Party entered in the field of Elections to Vidhan Sabha in 1962, but, receiving 360 votes in Sironj constituency, he lost his deposit.

Jan Sangh

The Sangh first entered the field of Elections to Lok Sabha in 1962 from Guna Lok Sabha Constituency. Its candidate lost the election securing only 20,646 votes out of 1,77,099 valid votes. In 1967, the Sangh candidate succeeded in capturing Vidisha Lok Sabha seat. He secured 1,57,953 out of 2,75,941 valid votes polled. In the Mid-Term poll of 1971 the Sangh backed an independent candidate, who, securing 1,51,386 valid votes, won the Lok Sabha seat of Vidisha.

The Sangh did not contest any seat in the General Elections to Vidhan Sabha in 1951-52 and 1957. In 1962 the Sangh unsuccessfully contested seats in three Vidhan Sabha constituencies and secured 506 valid votes in Kurwai, 704 in Vidisha and 513 in Sironj. In 1967, however, the Sangh captured all the four seats of the District securing 25,151 valid votes in Vidisha, 29,757 in Basoda, 28,431 in Kurwai and 19,665 in Sironj. In the bye-Election of Vidhan Sabha from Vidisha constituency, held in 1970, the Party recaptured the seat.

In the Fifth General Elections to Vidhan Sabha the Sangh fought all the four Vidhan Sabha seats of the District. It failed in Vidisha and Sironj constituencies and yielded to Congress. It secured 22,975 and 20,766 valid votes in those constituencies, respectively. It retained two other seats of the District, viz. Kurwai and Basoda. In the former Constituency it received the backing of 29,042 voters while in the latter it secured 24,306 valid votes. Two independent candidates in Basoda Constituency could not save even their deposits.

Newspapers

The history of newspapers in Vidisha District dates back only to the year 1956, when *Nai Halchal*, a monthly, was started at Sironj. It seems that at a later date it was published from Vidisha also. The Local Periodicals monthly subsequently became fortnightly. A weekly by name *Vidisha Sandesh* started publication from Vidisha in August 1959. Another weekly called *Chingari*, also from Vidisha, appeared in September, 1959. Again in the same year one more weekly titled *Vajranad* commenced publication at Vidisha. *Reeti-neeti* and *Anam* both weeklies of

Vidisha were started in 1965 and 1967, respectively. Most of these papers had only a short life. In 1970, a weekly *Lokadhwaj* appeared at Vidisha.

The reading public of the District is generally interested in the newspapers Published outside the District. Among the English dailies which are in circulation in the District figure the *Times of India*, *Hindustan Times* (Delhi) *Patriot* (Delhi) *Indian Express* (Bombay and Delhi) and *National Herald*. The *Hitavada* and the *Madhya Pradesh Chronicle*, both English dailies of Bhopal have wide circulation in the District. *Blitz*, *Illustrated Weekly*, *Screen*, *Femina*, *Filmfare*, etc., all English weeklies from Bombay, and *Link* (Delhi) command a good circulation in the District. Hindi newspapers and periodicals have a large number of readers in the District. Among the widely circulated papers figure *Hindustan* (Delhi), *Navabharat Times* (Bombay and Delhi) *Veer Arjun* (Delhi) *Nat Dunia* (Indore), *Navabharat* (Bhopal), *Bhaskar* (Bhopal), *Swadesh* (Indore), *Madhya Desh* (Bhopal), *Jagaran* (Bhopal) and *Avantika* (Ujjain), all Hindi dailies. Hindi weeklies which command large circulation in the District include *Hindustan* (Delhi), *Dharmayuga* (Bombay) *Dinamana* (Bombay) *Blitz* (Bombay), *Panchajanya* (Lucknow) and *Urvashi*. Besides, the periodicals like *Sarika* (Bombay) and *Sarita* (Delhi) are also read by the Hindi readers. Marathi readers of the District read *Lokasatta* and *Maharashtra Times* (both dailies (Bombay)). Urdu knowing people subscribe to *Dawat* (daily from Bhopal) and *Pratap* (daily from Delhi).

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

Established in 1930, this reading-room was registered in 1938 by the efforts of some energetic young men of Vidisha. Till 1952, the reading-room was housed in one of the rooms of the *dharmashala* of Saravajanik Laxmichand Jain. Gwalior State Town Improvement Vachanalaya Vidisha Trust had donated a suitable land near Tilak square at Vidisha for erecting the building of the reading room. Towards its building fund, various agencies donated Rs. 45,000 and the ground-floor was completed in 1952. The building was completed in 1959 and the reading room was shifted there while the shops on the ground floor were given on rent. Maharaja Jiwajirao Scindhia, who had earlier donated Rs. 25,000 for building fund, gave Rs. 25,000 as reserved fund.

The reading-room started a library also containing about 6,500 books in various languages. It subscribes to various dailies, weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies for the benefit of readers. Annually, about 70,000 readers take advantage of the library and reading-room. The main source of its income is rent of the shops.

For achieving all-round welfare of the women and children this Kendra was established at Vidisha in 1940. It was registered in 1958. The Kendra has started craft training centre and higher secondary education classes (condensed course) both for adult women. Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Vidisha On an average about 70 women take advantage annually of these centres. The Kendra received grants-in-aid from the Central Social Welfare Board, Directorate of Panchayat and Social Welfare and Education Department, Madhya Pradesh. The Kendra has started a hostel to accommodate helpless widows and discarded or dejected women. They are given craft-training to earn their livelihood.

This branch of Akhil Vishva Jain Mission, which has its head office at Aliganj of Etah district, Uttar Pradesh, was established at Sironj in Vidisha District in 1950. The object of the mission is to propagate truth and non-violence, vegetarianism, spiritual knowledge, etc. This is achieved by the mission through free distribution of books, book-lets and pamphlets printed in various languages. These are generally printed by the head office and for this purpose donors bear the expenditure. Sets of books and booklets are also sent free of charge to the libraries at schools, colleges and universities. The branch also tries to enroll the subscribers for mission's English and Hindi organs, *Voice of Ahimsa* and *Ahimsa-Vani*, respectively. It has also started a library and reading-room. Meetings and conferences are held at various places on the occasions of festivals and fairs to spread the message of truth and non-violence. Besides these activities the Mission provides food, medicines and clothings to the needy from time to time. The main sources of income include donations and membership fees. All its workers are honorary. About 100 persons are its members.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Badoh (23° 35' N; 77° 38' E)

This otherwise insignificant village of Kurwai Tahsil is archaeologically one of the most important places of the District. It is situated at a distance of about 19 km. by road to the east of Kulhar railway station, on the Delhi-Bombay main line of the Central Railway. The road is metalled up to Pathari (18 km. from Kulhar) while the rest of it is *kutchā*. Badoh is about 30 km. to the south-east of Kurwai. It is also linked by road with Vidisha and Udaipur. Regular buses ply from Vidisha to Pathari.

In mediaeval times Badoh was a town of considerable importance as is testified by numerous remains of temples, mainly situated around a large local tank. The town then included the area now occupied by the neighbouring village of Pathari. Of these ruins, the most important is that of Gadarmal temple, which is situated to the south-east of a large hill. It being of enormous height is visible from a long distance. An image of a goddess is carved on the door lintel. The temple consists of an oblong cell, with an entrance porch but without *sabha mandapa*. In this respect this temple is somewhat similar to the Teli-ka-mandir in Gwalior fort. The temple as it stands, is of two distinct parts belonging to different periods: (1) basement of the shrine and the porch which are the remnants of the original temple, are of the 9th century A. D. (2) Its *Shikhara* that replaced the original one. It is made up of heterogeneous pieces picked up from the ruins of Jain and Hindu temples. Once a colossal statue of a female, with a child lying by her side stood against the back wall. A statue of her son was also there inside the temple, but subsequently it disappeared. The colossus was afterwards turned over and broken. These figures were fine specimens of Indian art. There is some doubt as to the persons represented in this group. "When I first saw the sculpture in 1851, I took them for Maya Devi and the infant Buddha. It is also possible that they may be intended for Devaki and the infant Krishna, but seeing that the temple has certainly been appropriated by the Jains, I am inclined to identify the mother and child with Trishala and Mahavira. The lions at the feet of the bedstead are quite in the Jain style." Subsequently, a fine large sculpture of a mother goddess with a divine baby and a few images of other goddesses were recovered

from a debris inside the shrine. The former is now in Gwalior Museum. Interior of the shrine chamber has a continuous line of pedestals running along its back and side walls. There is also a series of socket holes in this line of pedestals indicating that a row of idols was installed there.

Gadarmal temple as it now exists is probably a restoration made by the Jains. It seems, that from a height of about 3 or 3.6 metres above the ground the restoration was made with the use of ruins of former Jain and Hindu temples. Parts like pillars, mouldings and base reliefs were frequently arranged in such positions for which they were not originally intended. On close examination naked Jain figures, standing about half way up the front of the temple, with circular medallions on each side of different sizes are seen. In other places both Jain and Brahmanical figures are found together. Even the amalaka fruit of the pinnacle was made up from others of smaller size. Around the Gadarmal temple there were seven other small shrines all of which are now in ruins. The retaining walls of the platform, on which stood these shrines were decorated with mouldings and niches, inset with sculptures. One of these shrines was dedicated to the Sun-god. Some sculptured slabs with the *Navagraha* or nine planets and *Ashta-shakti* or eight female energies were also found there. Some curious hunting scenes of men and dogs, men and antelopes and men attacking a boar are also noticed.

The *Torana* gateway of this temple, a fine specimen of ornate workmanship, and the best part of the temple is in utter ruins. Originally, its architrave rested on two pillars, capitals of which were formed of eight figures, four women and four lions, standing on as many brackets and all leaning forward. The gateway was of a very unique style and exquisite beauty.

To the west of the above temple there is a group of twenty-five small Jain shrines or cells in ruins. These form a square enclosure around an open pillared hall. All of these were built at different times ranging in date from the 9th to the 12th century A. D. or even to a later period. An inscription, dated *Vaishakha* 14th of the bright half of *Samvat* 933 corresponding to A. D. 876, was noticed here. It refers to *Padu-kulatilaka* heir-apparent of malwa. These cells shelter images of one or more of the twenty-four Jain *Tirthankaras*. The main shrine and a few other cells are surmounted with *Shikharas*. Some are crowned with domes and others have only flat pilgrims' records of the 11th century A. D. in two or three cells.

To the north of the lake, there exist ruins of a group of small Vaishnava shrines popularly called *Dashavatara* temple and a large

open pillared hall, both dedicated to one or other of the ten incarnations of Vishnu. Their age ranges from 8th to 10th century A.D.

Dashavatara Temple, Sati Pillars On the western bank there are ruins of several *sati* pillars, probably of the 9th or 10th century A.D. One of these having four sculptured faces, depicts a seated group of Hara-Gauri, with musicians and dancers below, a bust of male figure, holding up both hands, etc.

On the northern bank of the lake there is a flat roofed, open and sixteen pillared building locally known as Sola-Khambi. The building is 7.62 metres square and stands on 1.524 metres high moulded plinth.

Sola Khambi; Sat Madhi Temple The pillars are about 38 metres square and 2.209 metres high. The building, as its style of pillars and flat-roof indicate belongs to the age of Guptas. At a distance of about one and a half km. to the north-east of Dashavatara temple six temples in a group popularly known as Sat Madhi temple, and ruins of several others are situated. These were Vaishnavite and Shaivite. One is dedicated to Ganesha. The sculptures found there include three seated idols of the Buddha, the ninth incarnation of Vishnu. Their age is also contemporary with that of the Dashavatar temple.

These remains speak of the departed glory of Badoh; which once was a large and a wealthy town flourishing down to the days of Aurangzeb. The village, covering an area of about 284 hectares had a population of 159 in 1971 as against 632 in 1961 and 533 in 1991.

Basoda (23°51' N; 77°58' E)

Basoda, a municipal town, is the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name. Its railway station, known as Ganj Basoda is on the Bombay-Delhi mainline of the Central Railway. By rail it is 40 km. to the north-east of Vidisha. By road it is connected with various places of the District like Vidisha, Bareth, Sironj, Lateri, etc.

It is one of the most important grain markets in the District. A large weekly market is held in the town on every Sunday. Villagers in large numbers attend the market. An important cattle-fair is held annually in this electrified town. Electricity is available here for all purposes.

The town, being the headquarters of the tahsil, has usual tahsil offices, Community Development Block office, schools for primary, middle and higher secondary education of boys and girls, degree college, public library and reading room, co-operative society, post, telegraph and public-call offices, family planning centre, maternity home, civil hospital, veterinary hospital, *goshala*, artificial insemination unit and police-station.

The town, covering an area of 818 hectares was populated by 20,443 persons in 1971, as against 14,152 in 1961 and 2,687 in 1901.

Bes (23° 30' N; 77° 50' E)

This tiny village in Vidisha Tahsil is situated about three km. to the west of Vidisha railway station, with which it is connected by a road. It lies in the fork between the rivers, the Betwa and the Bes.

The village is generally identified with the ancient city of Wessanagara (Vaishyanagara) or Vidisha. The city was then very extensive, covering an area of about two km. in length and about one km. in breadth.

Old Name
Ashoka's
associations
with it

Its suburbs further extended its boundary. It is said that the whole city was about eight km. in circuit. The Buddhist literature states that Prince Ashoka halted here for some time on his way from Pataliputra to assume the charge of Viceroyalty of the Ujjain Province. His associations with the place were further sweetened by his marriage with Devi, a beautiful daughter of a local banker. Then the city appears to have been a centre of business and wealth. The business community of Besnagar donated liberally for the erection of monuments at Sanchi and this fact is corroborated by the inscriptions or records engraved on various monuments at Sanchi giving out the names of donors from Wessanagara.

Extensive ruins of this ancient city are scattered over the vast area in the form of mounds. The town of Bhilsa of the subsequent period is said to have been founded, and flourished at the cost of the old city of Besnagar, from where it received its material for its outer walls, built of square stones.

During the years from 1874-75 to 1876-77 Alexander Cunningham¹ "made a complete survey of the ruined city and explored the country for several miles around it." This enabled him to make several interesting discoveries. Several portions of a railing which once surrounded a Buddhist *stupa* were noticed by him just outside the village to its east. The finds included a curved coping-stone measuring more than two metres in length, one railing pillar and two rail bars. All these are inscribed with short records of donors in characters of the age of Emperor Ashoka (3rd century B. C.). The inner face of the coping stone bears a sculpture of a procession formed by "four elephants and four horsemen placed alternately, with a footman between each pair." Each elephant is depicted as bearing a relic-casket. A tray of offerings is shown in the hand of each horseman. A continuous band divides the outer face

1. *ibid.* pp. 36-46.

of the coping stone into ten panels, depicting elephant, pair of musicians, a female bearing a tray and a man, and a *stupa*. A short record of a donor with *swastika* in the beginning and the *dharma chakra* (Wheel of the Law) at its end, is engraved in Ashokan characters on the head of these panels.

The railing pillar is more than a metre in height and its front part alone is richly ornamented. The top of it is adorned by a *Bodhi* tree, under which three rows of men standing in attitudes of devotion are shown. The record engraved on it is badly mutilated.

The two rail-bars are of usual pattern. A large lotus flower is there on each face of these bars, which are inscribed with short records of donors.

Besides, Cunningham picked up a number of ancient coins of various dynasties. Out of 90 specimens, six were of old punch-marked class and 50 of uninscribed types, which were so common at Eran and Ujjain. These specimens included eight of the Satrapas of Saurashtra, eight of the Nagas of Narwar and one coin of Chandragupta of Gupta dynasty.

In addition, a broken bell capital, a colossal female statue (more than two metres in height) with two lions seated back to back and a buffalo's head between them on its pedestal, a broken bell capital, a small figure of lion, a large figure of the Ganga standing on her crocodile, another ancient capital, crowned with the well known *Kalpa--drum* (a divine tree fulfilling all desires) etc., were discovered among the ruins found at Bes. Cunningham also noticed several high mounds which are the probable sites of ancient *stupas*, *vihars* or temples, corner pillar of a Buddhist railing, a broken colossal statue of a female, curious and novel because of her costume, a statue of an elephant with its rider and a pillar popularly named Kham Baba.

During the year 1913-14, the work of excavation at Bes was undertaken by the Department of Archaeology. The site, on which stands the Kham Baba pillar near the junction of the Betwa and the Bes rivers, was selected for excavation. The inscription engraved on the pillar records the name of the pillar as *Garuda-dhvaja*, the column surmounted by *Garuda* which was erected by Heliadora (Heliodoros), son of Diya (Dion), in honour of the god Vasudeva. "He is therein spoken of as a Bhagavata i. e. the worshipper of Bhagavata (Vasudeva) and a resident of Takshasila (Taxila). He had come there as an envoy from the Indo-Bactrian king Antalikita (Antialcidas) to the court of local prince Bhagabhadra."

On numismatic ground the latest date ascribed to this Indo-Bactrian

1. Archaeological Survey of India, Annual Report, 1913-14, p. 186.

king is 140 B. C.¹ At this early date, as the pillar proves, here was a temple dedicated to Vasudeva, which is the earliest known structure of Vasudeva sect. It also proves that the fame and the sanctity of the temple was so great that they inspired even a Greek Ambassador to set a costly *Garuda* pillar in honour of Vasudeva.

The *Garuda-dwaja* is of quartzitic sandstone of the Vindhyan system and of pinkish brown colour. Its surface is relatively rough having no polish of the age of Ashoka. The pillar, as it stood at the time of the excavation in 1913-14, rose from a platform, built apparently in modern age. The pillar has two parts viz., the shaft and the capital, each of which is a monolith. The shaft tapers towards the top and its lowest section is octagonal. Each of its faces is adorned with a half lotus design within an arched border and a bunch of petals between. There are two inscriptions below the line of these designs and they respectively face to the east and the west, each covering only three sides of the octagon. The second part of the shaft has sixteen sides and its "top is decorated with an ornamental festoon, consisting of three strands suspended on eight brackets and in each of the eight swags is a fruit" like custard-apple, mango and brinjal and flowers, of which lotus alone can be identified, as many of them are more or less weather-worn. The next section of the shaft has thirty-two sides, each tapering to a point at the top. The uppermost section of the shaft is circular in shape and its height is 0.51 m. "The capital is adorned with curved ribs with petals at the top, and its underside decorated with three concentric rings, its height being $2\frac{6}{11}$ and its diameter $2\frac{8}{11}$ ". The junction between the capital and the abacus above is marked by a cable necking...² Of the three compartments of abacus, the lowest is adorned with a bead and reel moulding. Much of the carved surface of the abacus is broken. The remaining part of it shows that the central band possessed a design of pairs of geese feeding with their long necks confronting each other, with a honey suckle pattern between each pair. The uppermost was adorned with a design of lotus flowers with petals and stalks in conventional curves. The abacus was originally surmounted by a figure of *Garuda* as the inscription on the pillar describes it as a *Garudadwaja* (standard).

Besides, the site yielded two fan-palm sculptures or palm leaf capitals and a rail capital, the lowermost part of which is the bell of about 0.55 m. in height. The cable necking divides the bell from the abacus that is crowned by a rail moulding and *amalaka*. The *Makara* pinnacle sculpture of it was found lying beside it. Behind each eye of the *makara* or crocodile there is a hole which possibly served as mortises for holding the tenons of the crowning

1. *ibid.* p. 187.

2. *ibid.* p. 188.

piece. A stump of a column, which originally formed the lower part of a pillar shaft, was found lying in one of the narrow streets of Vidisha. It was removed to Bes. It has eight sides changing to sixteen. Seven sides of this octagon bear a short inscription now effaced on one side. This informs that Bhagavata, son of Gotami, caused a *Garuda* standard to be made in connection with the best temple of Vasudeva (Bhagavata) when Maharaja Bhagavata had been crowned twelve years.¹

Thus this *Garuda-dhwaja* too was erected in front of the most celebrated temple of Vasudeva. It is supposed that this pillar was surmounted by the rail capital described above. Possibly *Garuda* on this pillar was riding on the *makara*.

Extensive excavations at the locality brought to light several open and solid railings, pillars which have mostly lost their tops. Near one of these pillars the upper half of an image originally having four arms was found. Three of its hands are broken off. The better preserved fourth hand rests on a lion-head. The lower portion of this image too was recovered at some distance, and its feet were lost. This image can be identified with that of *Garuda* the vehicle of Vishnu. It is assumed that this *Garuda* image surmounted the Kham Baba pillar.² This image is ascribed to the age of Chandragupta II (A. D. 5th century). Its size and height are such as to suit the abacus top of Kham Baba pillar. Probably this Gupta King, being a staunch devotee of Vishnu, crowned the column with this image of *Garuda*.

The *Garuda--dhwaja* or Kham Baba and the ground around it were given in *inam* by Gwalior Darbar to a priest of the Shaiva sect, with whom originated the worship of the deified column called Kham Baba, a favourite deity of the Bhois or Dhimars. The column was besmeared by devotees with the paint formed of red-lead and oil. The priest of the deity is known as Babaji and he has his house near the pillar.

Excavations were carried out in this land. Traces of some human habitation like earthen jars, cistern, remains of brick and stone walling, toys, etc., were also found. Besides this, a site, of a dwelling of some importance³ (probably of the *pujari* of the temple of Vasudeva), a stone mortar such as that used for

1. *ibid.* p. 190.

2. *ibid.* p. 195.

3. *ibid.* p. 196.

separating grains of corn from husk, tanks, bones of camel and elephant, extensive railing with their pillars, etc., were noticed. On the three sides of the mound, which is surmounted by Babaji's house, three walls of the same pattern were exhumed and these were the three retaining walls of a platform. The fourth wall could not be traced as its search would have involved demolition of the front part of Babaji's house.

The railings surrounding the Kham Baba and the column are assigned to 165 B.C. and 140 B.C., respectively¹. The mound occupied by the Babaji's house possibly represents the site of the best temple of Vasudeva referred to in the inscriptions.² Partial excavation in the court inside Babaji's house yielded a thin floor of old broken tiles well consolidated, with a still thinner layer of yellow earth upon it. But no vestige of structure was discovered here. The temple might have originally stood either on the terrace itself or on this floor and when the sanctity of the shrine increased a platform was afterwards erected and a new shrine built on it for Vasudeva.³ Possibly greater portion of the temple was pilfered and removed to build Bhilsa town which came into existence about the 8th century A. D.

The tilepieces referred to above are obviously of the time when the original Vasudeva temple was constructed and cannot possibly be later than the solid railing, which can be attributed to B.C. 165. The tiles are Indian red in colour, though a few are reddish brown. Even at such an early date the craft of tile-making seems to have far advanced.⁴

Besides this, the excavations carried on at the site during the year 1913-14 and 1914-15 yielded remains of Mauryan or pre-Mauryan age. This included an irrigation canal⁵ found below the foundations of stone railing. The canal had brick-walls infilled with pure alluvial earth evidently brought here by the floods of the river Bes with which it must have been connected. The canal was of the breadth of about a little more than two metres. It seems that the river Bes was dammed here and the water carried on to irrigate the fields through a canal. Quite an intricate network of canals must have been constructed of which that found on the Kham Baba site is but one. It seems that this excavated canal had been a storage canal as indicated by the cross wall joining the south and north walls. Probably at

1. *ibid.* p. 204.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.* p. 205.

4. *ibid.*

5. *ibid.* 1914-15, p. 69.

some time when torrential rains fell the river water overflowed and a vast sheet of water accumulated. This heavy flood must have played havoc, with the canal filling it with alluvial soil and wrecking the west limb of the canal.¹ It is worthy of note that this excavated site has not yielded vestiges of human habitation at that level and this suggests that the canal was there for irrigating the soil.

Minor antiquities included terracotta figurines, miniature copper bell, circular brass signet ring, cylindrical copper tube etc. All except the last one were found either on or above the level of the foundations of the solid stone railing. The last mentioned was found at the bottom level of the north and south walls. A flat-bottomed solid copper figurine, representing lion couchant in profile with open jaws, is the most artistic piece of the whole lot, while a brass signet-ring is the most interesting specimen, as it bears the name Golakasa, engraved in reverse form in characters of the first century B. C.

Simultaneously with the digging about the Kham Baba column, excavations were started on the eastern bank of the river, where the ancient town of Vidisha was situated. Here a nail bar imbedded in the ground surface was noticed at the foot of a small mound. Digging of this mound proved fruitful and exceedingly interesting, as it yielded three ancient sacrificial pits or *Kundas*, square, oblong and *Yoni* type, at the depth above one metre. These brick structures are at the distance of about two to three metres from each other. On a slightly lower level a silver coin of the Mahakshatrapa Ishvaradatta (second or third century A.D.) and on the level on which the *kundas* were found, six coins of the Naga kings i. e. Bhima Naga and Ganendra or Ganapati Naga (middle of the third century or early 4th century A. D.) were found. These help us in fixing the age of these *kundas* to the beginning of the 4th century A. D.² These pits were surrounded by brick pavements. Not far from the south and the north *kundas* were found two *nalis* or drains built of bricks with stone bottom. The water of both the drains seems to have been carried eastwards and from their junction the joined drain could be traced up to the length of about three metres. These were probably connected with the sacrificial pits and water.

Besides these, walls of two structures, one to the south and the other to the east of the pits were discovered on the same level.³ One

1. *ibid.* p. 71.

2. *ibid.* pp. 74-75.

3. *ibid.* p. 76.

of them is of about 35 metres in length while the other is of about 19 metres in length. One of these structures probably served the purpose of an assembly hall for the celebrated or distinguished guests of the sacrificer, while the other was used as their dining hall, as it was provided with a drain. The north-west corner of the hall yielded fragments of pottery of diverse nature in vast quantity and this suggests the possibility of its being a dining hall where sacrificer's guests were feasted.¹

The excavations exposed twenty-six pieces of clay seals bearing impressions lying in or near these halls. Twenty-five of these bear marks of strings or of wooden tablets, or both, on their backs showing that they were affixed to documents which came from outside to the sacrificial assembly hall. Words like *hota pota* and *mamantra*, which are technical to sacrificial literature, occur in the legends on these seals and these indicate that the sealing is connected with *Yajñashala*. The name of the *data* is given as *Timitra* which appears to be a Sanskritised form of the Greek *Demetrius* who instituted the sacrifice.²

Some remains of walls, which are on a lower level than the walls of the sacrificial dining hall were exposed. They were of Kshatrapa period. Below one of these walls remains of still earlier stone walls were traced and they belong to the Andhra period. These are the earliest stone walls discovered on this site. Of a slightly earlier period i. e. probably of the Sungas, is a portion of a brick wall in which traces of lime mortar as cementing material was used. This mortar was discovered in the brick walls of the irrigation canal on the Kham Baba site. Lime mortar had so long been supposed by archaeologists to be unknown in India in pre-Muhammadan times. But the discovery of lime mortar at the site confirmed the fact that such well-made mortar was used by the ancient Indians.

Below the stratum of stone and brick walls of the Andhra and Sunga periods, respectively, a stratum of charcoal at the bottom, ashes in the middle and tile pieces at the top, showing the traces of human habitation of Maurya period was unearthed.³ The only structures exposed were four or five wells constructed of burnt earthenware rings. The site also yielded a piece of flat stone with *bhikhunya* (by the nun) incised on it in characters

1. *ibid.* pp. 76-77.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.* p. 79.

of the Maurya or Sunga age, a thing like relic casket and a vase with very narrow mouth and rounded bottom. It looks as if a
 Relic casket *stupa* of the above age stood at the site before its occupation by human beings.

The minor antiquities of the place, 58 in all, include terracotta figurines, pottery, stone and metallic objects and beads and amulets. Besides, Kham Baba and Besnagar sites exposed 66 coins, of which 56 are *Karshapanas* of the age of the Western Kshatrapas and Nagas.

During the excavations of these years, undertaken at Bes, several cuttings were laid out. One of the cuttings, located on the confluence of the rivers Bes and Betwa, revealed ruins belonging to six periods of habitation, ranging in chronology from prior to the Northern Black Polished ware to post-Gupta times. Black- and red and black-slipped wares along with plain red ware, animal bones and iron objects found here belong to period

Excavations
 1963-64 and
 1964-65

1. Finds like Northern Black Polished wares along with wares of previous period, copper and iron objects, terracotta beads, bone objects terracotta votive tanks, stone pestles and querns, a collared copper bead, terracotta flesh-rubbers, punch-marked coins, etc., were obtained from the deposits of this period. The end of this period seems to have been brought by a conflagration pointed out by a uniform deposit of burning.

The third period finds include marble objects, shellbangles, punch-marked coins, polished and burnt bone pieces. An inscribed stone seal bearing an inscription reading *Nikumbha-ragasya* in Brahmi characters of the Sunga period was also found in the late level of this period. Period IV is assignable to the Naga-Kushan horizon. Besides, wares of the ceramic industry, votive tanks, a few copper coins, etc., were found in the levels of this period. Period V yielded antiquities relating to the Gupta period. In this period the incised, stamped and impressed decorative motifs became frequent. Silver coin, terracotta human and animal figurines, terracotta and incised shell bangles, etc., were also found. This site was probably deserted after this period. Period VI finds include copper coin, fragmentary stone sculpture, etc.

Excavations in the Kham Baba area brought to light remains of a huge temple, measuring, roughly 30 X 30 m.

During 1963-65 different spots around Vidisha were explored by the Archaeological Survey of India, Central Circle and a regular sequence of cultures from the Chalcolithic through early historical times upto the early Medieval period was found. The excavations were resumed in December, 1975 at

the fortification wall of the ancient site of Besnagar (Vidisha). It was constructed for the first time probably during the 2nd century B. C. as a huge palace wall, to serve as a fortification wall, as per the principles of ancient city planning.

The wall was of rubble with an exposed width of 10 m. It seems to have been built around 2nd century B. C. and remained in use for at least two centuries. Its method of construction is criss-cross, that is the whole width of the wall had been constructed by making thin walls of about 1 m. thickness and further strengthened by still thinner cross walls, the hollow apartments having been packed with small rubble, brickbats and pebbles. By adopting this device the construction becomes less expensive and the wall stronger. Six walls, made of partly dressed and partly random rubble, have also been exposed. These are datable from the 1st century A. D. to the 9th or 10th century A. D. The original fortification wall has been noticed at the depth of about 3.80 m. from the surface and about 13 m. to the west of a dozen charred wooden posts of 10 cm. height.

More than one large sized stone balls, weighing about 10 kg. and nearly a dozen smaller stone balls, have been recovered from the top or side of the wall. These were, probably, propelled through machines, kept on carts or chariots.

Some other objects were picked up during this operation. These include a miniature head of Ganesa, made of stone, a small terracotta plaque, representing Siva on his vehicle Nandi, a miniature soap-stone Nandi, a miniature terracotta *Yaksha*, lower half of a statue of Mahisa-mardini; about 110 punched marked Naga and Kshatrapa coins and a few Northern Black Polished Wares.

Further up an octagonal stone pillar of the Sunga period, with [makara] design on its top, was unearthed.¹

The village Bes covers an area of about 574 hectares. In 1971, its population was 573 as against 184 in 1961.

Deopur (24° 5' N; 77° 35' E)

This village in Sironj Tahsil is situated 10 km. north-west of Sironj on a road linking Guna with Sironj. Regular buses ply on the road and Deopur is one of their stops or stages.

The village is very small and its main interest lies in a very old temple

1. This information was supplied by Shri M. D. Khare, Superintendent of Archaeology of the Central Circle of A.S. 9.

dedicated to Vishvanatha and a few ponds, existing near the temple. The water of the pond is supposed to be very sacred. A small annual fair is held here on the day of *makar-sankranti*. The village covering an area of about 390 hectares was inhabited by 400 persons in 1971 as against 282 in 1961.

Gyaraspur (23°01' N; 78°05' E)

A village in Vidisha Tahsil, Gyaraspur lies in a gorge of some low steep hills, at a distance of about 38.4 km. from the district and tahsil headquarters town to its north-east. The place is situated on the old high road to Sagar. Buses ply on the road.

The extensive ruins, scattered in and around the village, narrate the story of glory that was Gyaraspur in the late ancient and early mediaeval times. These ruins indicate that the place had passed through the influence of Buddhism, Brahmanism and Jainism.

The monuments that deserve mention are (1) Athakhamba in the west, (2) Bajra Matha on the south-west (3) Maladevi on the south, (4) Hindola inside the village, (5) traces of a few Buddhist *Stupas* and images and remains of two temples situated to the north of the village and (6) the last but not the least a rare sculpture of Shalbhanjika. Besides these major monuments, there are a few minor monuments like a *gadhi* (fortress), Manasarovara or a tank, *sati* stones, fragmentary sculptures and a Christian tomb.

The Athakhamba as the name implies is a structure resting on eight pillars. This is the remnant of an once magnificent temple. The structure now comprises the door-frame of the shrine, the two pillars of the antechamber carrying a trifoil arch and the four central pillars of the hall. All these are richly carved. A pilgrims record, carved on one of the pillars, is dated in Vikrama Samvat 1039 corresponding to A. D. 982.

The Bajramath is a fine example of a very rare class of temples with three shrines or cells placed abreast. All these shrines are now occupied by Jain idols belonging to the Digambara sect. But it is clear from the sculptures placed on the door frames and niches on the basement that originally these shrines sheltered the Hindu Trinity. More precisely, the central shrine was dedicated to Surya (often a Substitute for Brahma), the southern to Vishnu and the northern to Siva. The carving of the doorway is exceptionally fine and vigorous. The *Shikhara* of the temple is unusual in its plan and design.

Among the existing structures of Gyaraspur Maladevi Temple is the biggest. It is quite picturesquely situated on the slope of a hill overlooking the valley. Located on a huge platform cut out of the hillside and strengthened by a massive retaining wall, Maladevi Temple is in fact an imposing and stupendous building. It comprises an entrance-porch, a hall and a shrine surrounded by a circumambulatory passage and crowned with a lofty *shikhara* all covered with rich carving. Though now Jain images occupy the shrine room and hall, a figure of a goddess occupying the dedicatory block on the outer door frame and other decorative sculptures probably indicate that the temple was originally dedicated to some goddess and it was subsequently appropriated by the Jains.

It is one of the *toranas* or ornamental entrance arches leading to a large temple either of Vishnu or of Trimurti, the remains of which were unearthed in excavation. Hindola means a swing, and this *torana* with its two upright pillars and cross-beam has a truly connotative name. All the four sides of the two lofty pillars are carved into panels with insets of the ten incarnations of Vishnu. The excavation further revealed that the adjoining group of four pillars which carried brackets with lions and elephant heads constituted the central pillars of the *sabhamandapa* of the *mahamandapa* of the temple for which Hindola *Torana* was originally attached. It ranges in date from the 8th to the 10th century.

On the north of the village atop a hill there are a few platforms built of dry rubble masonry. Leading to these, there are traces of a paved path and steps. The ruins indicate that these may possibly be the remnants of Buddhist *stupas*. There are also traces of a paved path and steps leading to the site. It seems quite likely that all these structures were reopened and ransacked by the treasure hunters. One image of Lord Buddha in worn out condition was found here. Two other images of the Buddha found about three km. to the west of Gyaraspur were carved on the face of a hill. Probably these two pieces were carved out during the waning period of Buddhism in this area. Recently an approach road from the village to the *stupa* was constructed and its collapsed portion was restored.¹

A rare sculpture has been found at Gyaraspur. It is an exquisite stone figure of a *Vrikshaka* (wood nymph) belonging to a period between the

1. Indian Archaeology, A Review, 1959-90, p. 87.

8th and 9th century A. D. and kept in the Archaeological Museum, Gwalior Fort. It has been brought there from Gyaraspur. This matchless oriental beauty represents a *Shalbhanjika*. The sculptured figure stands in a *tribhanga* posture formed by bending her beautiful body in triple tortion and triple flexion while her face is alive with an intense expression, rather an unusual and rare phenomenon in Indian art.¹ Some smaller figures in similar pose are depicted on the sides of the Hindolas Toran (gateway). Though unfortunately the statue is now in fragments it is evident from its high quality that it was not a mere ornamentation.

On the eastern slope of the hill, looking the tank below, there are remains of quite a number of small shrines or temples enclosed by a compound. Of these all but two have disappeared. Their door frames are carved. One of these structures has a figure of *garuda* on its lintel of the shrine-room, which points out that the temple was dedicated to Vishnu. These possibly date back to the 8th or 9th century A. D. The *Garhi* or fortress of Gyaraspur is said to have been constructed by the Gond chief Mansingh in the 17th century. It seems that the fortress was further extended by the Muhammadans. The authorship of the tank called Manasarovar is also attributed to the same Gond chief who constructed the *garhi*. A few images of Ganesha, Bhairava and some *sati* and memorial pillars are also found scattered over the area lying to the south-east of the tank at a short distance. A Christian tomb in memory of Sergeant Major John Snow of the 72nd regiment, who died here on the 8th of October 1837, is found erected near the Athakhamba.

The village Gyaraspur has primary and middle schools, rural health centre, dispensary, a veterinary hospital, post-office, public library, public reading room, etc. The annual Ramalila fair of the village lasts for 12 days.

The village covers an area of about 1,671 hectares. In 1971, its population was 1813 as against 1,297 in 1961.

Jhookarjogi (24° 5' N; 77° 30' E)

This village in Lateri Tahsil is situated about nine km. to the south-east of the tahsil headquarters.

The only objects of interest of the place are a few old rock-cut caves in the hill.

The village covers an area of about 2,536 hectares. It was populated by 1374 persons in 1971 and by 1,049 persons in 1961.

1. Mario Bussagli and Calembur Sivamurti, 'Art of India, p. 13.

Kurwai (24° 0' N; 78° 5' E)

Situated on the right bank of the river Betwa, this former headquarters of a mediatised chiefship, directly dependent on the British Government in Central India under the Bhopal Agency, is now the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name in Vidisha District. It is about 77 km. to the north-east of Vidisha with which it is connected by rail and road. Its railway station is called Kurwai-Kethora. It is on the Bhopal-Bina main line of the Central Railway. It is also connected by roads with other tahsil headquarters of the District like Sironj, Lateri, Basoda, etc.

The interesting object of the place is its fort built of the gnesis rock, which is abundantly found in the neighbourhood. The fort stands on a small hill located to the east of the town. Most of the houses of this town are also built of the same gnesis rock and are roofed with big slabs.

This electrified town has primary, middle and higher secondary schools, post and telegraph office, hospital, primary health centre, police-station, branch of the Central Co-operative Bank, municipality and a co-operative credit society. Weekly market of the place is held here on Wednesdays.

The town covers an area of about 267 hectares. Its population in 1971 increased to 6,811 from 5,122 in 1961 and 2,256 in 1901.

Lateri (24° 05' N; 77° 30' E)

This large village is the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name. It is about 29 km. to the south-west of Sironj, another headquarters town of a tahsil called after it. A road links both these places and buses ply on the road.

The main objects of interest of the region are some rock-cut caves at a beautiful spot called Badi-Madagaon, situated at a distance of about five km.

Badi Madagaon caves; Chhoti Madagaon Temple	Its scenic beauty is increased by two tanks located in the neighbourhood and a water-fall of the height of about 45 m. The fall is only seasonal. An annual fair is held here on the occasion of <i>Makara Sankranti</i> in January. Another spot known as Chhoti Madagaon is also situated in the neighbourhood of Lateri. It has an old temple assignable to the 10th century A.D. It is known as Neelakantheshwara temple. It shelters some broken images, which resemble those at the famous Neelakantheshwara temple of Udaipur, ancient Udayapura in Basoda Tahsil.
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Lateri itself is an important retail marketing centre in the tahsil. A large weekly market is held here on every Sunday. An annual religious fair, lasting

for 25 days is held at Lateri in the month of December. An *urs* managed by the local Muhammadan community is also held here every year.

Being the tahsil headquarters it has usual tahsil offices. Besides, it has schools for primary, middle and higher secondary education, primary health centre, veterinary hospital, post and telegraph office, police-station, community development block office, *gram panchayat*, etc.

The area of this electrified village is about 5130 hectares. Its population in 1971 was 5293 as against 3,835 in 1961.

Pathari (23°56' N ; 78°13' E)

This former headquarters of a petty mediatized State of the same name under the then Bhopal Agency, is now a large village in Kurwai Tahsil of Vidisha District. It is situated at a distance of about 18 km. to the south-east of Kulhar, a railway station on the Bhopal-Bina main line of the Central Railway. Both these places are linked by a road. It is also connected by road with Vidisha.

The village is picturesquely situated on a small sand-stone hill. As stated in the article on Badoh, the area now occupied by the village was within the limit of the old extensive town of Badoh known for its monuments. In fact, archaeological remains at Pathari then formed part of Badoh. These are of considerable interest. The road from Badoh to Pathari is marked by the remains of numerous statues, carved stones of Hindu temples and old foundations everywhere. The old town was destroyed by the Muhammadans, possibly by Alamgir or Aurangzeb.¹ Among the principal objects of interest figures a magnificent column which stands in the village. The pillar is cut from a white sandstone and is about 14.30 m. high, about 13 m. being in a single piece. The pillar is surmounted by a bell capital on which there were originally two human figures back to back. There is an inscription of thirtyeight lines on the northern face of this column. It records, that the pillar was set up as a *Garudadwaja* by a chief minister of the Rashtrakuta king Parabala in Vikrama Samvat 917 corresponding to A.D. 861. It also states that the king Parabala built a temple of Vishnu. It seems that a small temple standing close by and sheltering a *lingam* was originally the temple dedicated to Vishnu, in front of which a *Garuda* bannered pillar was set up, as is clear from the figure of *Garuda* over its doorway. The pillar is locally known as *Bhimagada*.

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XX, pp. 29-30.

Another ancient monument is a rock-cut panel of *Sapta Matrikas* (the seven mothers), which is sculptured in the south face of the hill between Badoh and Pathari. This panel is referable to the 5th century A. D. Under this panel an inscription is engraved on a rock-cut tablet and it records the name of King Jayatsena.¹ There is a huge unfinished sculpture of a *Varaha* carved in a huge boulder, lying at a distance of about 11 km. to the east of the village. To the south-east of the village lies a Siva temple at a distance of about 1 km. All these monuments range in dates from the 9th to the 11th century A.D. An inscribed slab inset in a *baori*, recording the construction of this *baori* by Maharaja Prithviraj Ju Deva is dated in 1676. It mentions the reign of Aurangzeb.

The village Pathari has primary, middle and higher secondary schools, dispensary, post-office, an out-lying veterinary dispensary, police-station, and cattle breeding unit. Local weekly market is held on every Wednesday. The village covers an area of about 871 hectares. In 1971 its population was 2559 as against 1,725 in 1961 and 1,106 in 1901.

Shamshabad (23°49' N; 78°32' E)

A former headquarters of a *tappa* of the same name, Shamshabad is now a large village in Basoda Tahsil lying to the south-west of Basoda. It is connected by road with Vidisha from where buses ply to Shamshabad, situated at a distance of about 38 km. to the north-west of Vidisha.

It is said that one Shams Khan, populating this village, built a palace and mosque in the early half of the 17th century on the river Sanpan. The Persian inscription in the mosque is dated in 1641 A. D. In the middle of the 18th century another Shams Khan holding this place built Shamsgarh fort here which is in ruins. Under the pretence of friendship he contrived to murder the Thakur of the then neighbouring village of Tor and seize his land. The Thakur's grandson Bakhtawa Singh was helped by Dost Muhammad Khan, then an agent at the court of the Rani of Mangalgarh, in regaining the country and property by killing Shams Khan in battle. Shams Khan was buried in the fort. His tomb in ruins bears the record of victory.

A weekly market is held on every Saturday and an annual fair is held in February-March on Sivaratri day. Shamshabad has primary, middle and higher

1. D.R. Patil, *The Cultural Heritage of Madhya Bharat*, pp. 111.

secondary schools, civil hospital, rural health centre, maternity home, post-office, police-station, *gram panchayat*, etc. It covers an area of about 476 hectares. The village was populated by 2840 persons in 1971 as against by 1,721 persons in 1961.

Sironj (24°5' N; 77°45' E)

Sironj, the headquarters of a tahsil of the same name is situated to the north-west of Vidisha, with which it is connected by roads on which buses ply regularly. During May 1948 to October 1956 it was a district headquarters town in Rajasthan. Its nearest railway station Kurwai-Kethora on the Bhopal Bina main line of the Central Railway is about 48 km. from Sironj and is connected by road. The place is also connected by roads with all the other tahsil headquarters of Vidisha District.

Sironj was undoubtedly a place of considerable importance in old days. It was situated on the old direct route between the south and the north. It is credited with historical and archaeological importance. Jain The oldest known monument is an idol of Chandranatha, Images the eighth Jain *Tirthankara* found at Dharampur near Sironj. The inscription on this huge image is dated in *Vikrama Samvat 1112*, corresponding to A.D. 1055.¹ The image is about two metres high and about one metre broad. It was found buried under ground. This proves that the township did exist about a thousand years ago. When the image was lying half buried in the ground it was locally known as Kali Telan. Another old object of interest is known as Nisaiya, also sacred to the Jains. On excavation at one point the place yielded an old statue of Mahavira, the 24th Jain *Tirthankara* in a broken condition. An annual fair of the Jains is held here. Further excavation may prove fruitful.

The Girdhari temple, situated in the town is assigned to the 11th century A.D. It is known for its sculpture and fine carvings. Of the old temples those of Jatashankara and Mahamaya are said to be old and sacred. The former is situated at a distance of about three km. to the south-west of Sironj in forest area. It is said that Tatya Tope of 1857-fame had halted here for some time. The Mahamaya temple is five km. away to the south from Sironj. It is situated on a hill. In the month of June-July an annual fair is held here. Neel-akantheshwara temple was built by Ahilyabai Holkar in A.D. 1771. On Sivaratri day an annual fair is held at the spot. Near it lies a four pillared small structure of stone. It is popularly known as Udan Chhatri (flying cenotaph or umbrella).

1. Vidisha District Census Hand-Book, 1961, p. XI.

The town contains a number of mosques, *makabaras* and tombs, mostly erected during the period of Muhammadan supremacy over the town i. e. 17th century.

The glory that was Sironj prior to the 17th century decayed rapidly and its empty *bazars* and the ruins of many fine houses alone testify to its departed glory. Tavernier, the celebrated French traveller had an occasion to witness and describe the famous industries of the place in the 17th century. Then Sironj was populated mostly by merchants and artisans for generations together. The town was famous for the trade in all kinds of coloured calicos or chintzes with which all the common people of Persia and Turkey were then clad and which was "used in several other countries for bedcovers and tablecloths."¹ The calicos of Sironj were in lively and very fast colours. The more they were washed the more beautiful they became. The property of giving this vivacity to the colours was attributed to the water of the river Nahen, a tributary of the Betwa. The workers used to print their calicos on the pattern given to them by foreign merchants.

The town was also famous for its superfine muslin about which Tavernier says that it was "so fine that when it is on the person you see all the skin as though it were uncovered. The merchants are not allowed to export it, and the Governor sends all of it for the Great Mogul's seraglio and for the principal courtiers."² Sir Thomas Roe who was in India during 1615 to 1619 said that the cloth of Sironj 'exceeded all the kingdoms' in fineness.³ Earlier in the 16th century Ralph Fitch, an European traveller, who travelled in India during 1583 to 1591 mentions Sironj as a great trade centre of cotton and cotton cloth. William Finch, during 1608 to 1611, found many betel-leaf gardens at this great town.⁴

During the reign of Akbar Sironj was the headquarters of a *mahal* of the same name under the *sarkar* of Chanderi. Subsequently, Chhatrasal fought and annihilated the Mughal force sent against him by Aurangzeb at Sironj. After the death of Chhatrasal Peshwa Bajirao I acquired Sironj. Nizam-ul-Mulk, the Mughal Subedar of Malwa snatched away Sironj from the Peshwa but, by the Treaty of Sironj (1738) the Nizam again handed over Sironj to the Peshwa who

1. H. B. Tavernier, *Travels In India*, Tr. by V. Ball, Vol. I, p. 56.

2. *ibid.* pp. 56-57.

3. *The Embassy of Sir Thomas Roe to India*, Ed. by W. Foster, p. 215n.

4. *Early Travels In India*, Ed. by W. Foster, pp. 17 and 143.

granted it to the Holkar. Subsequently Yashwant Rao Holkar granted Sironj to Anir Khan in 1798, who founded the family of Nawabs of Tonk with whom it remained till 1948. The mint for striking copper coins was working at Sironj till the year 1892.

Sironj is one of the important retail marketing centres of the District. This municipal town is electrified and has a branch office of the Central Co-operative Bank, schools for primary to higher secondary education, degree college, post and telegraph offices, usual tahsil offices, Community Development Block office, public library and reading room, primary health centre, maternity home, civil dispensary, family planning centre, veterinary hospital, cattle breeding extension unit, rest house, police-station, etc.

The town covers an area of about 40 hectares. In 1971 its population increased to 22,413 from 17,288 in 1961.

Teonda (23°49' N; 78°15' E)

This village, picturesquely situated in Basoda Tahsil, lies about 26 km. to the south-east of Basoda. A lofty sandstone hill rises on the west of the village overlooking a tank. It is connected by road with Basoda. It is also linked by road with Gyaraspur and Vidisha.

The village was once a great town of considerable importance. All round are lying scattered the remains of ancient buildings, palaces, houses and tombs dating from Muhammadan days, but these mostly utilised the remains of earlier buildings of much older date. A careful exploration and excavation may bring out objects of great archaeological value.

The village has primary and middle schools, police-station, *gram panchayat* and primary health centre. It covers an area of about 1367 hectares. In 1971 its population was 1105 as against 728 in 1961 and 611 in 1901.

Udayagiri (23°32' N; 77°50' E)

This archaeologically important site of antiquity in Vidisha Tahsil is situated at a distance of about 6 km. to the north-west of Vidisha between the rivers Bes and Betwa.

The site is mainly known for its ancient rock-cut temples excavated in an isolated sand-stone hill and the numerous Buddhist remains in its neighbourhood. This isolated hill extends from north-west to south-east and is about a km. long, rising to a height of about 110 m. above the plain. Traces of some ancient buildings were also found here. There are in all 10 caves or rock-cut temples on the hill known as Udayagiri. Some of these contain

Ancient caves and
Remains

inscriptions, dated and undated, of considerable historical importance. The caves are mostly small chambers, enshrining idols or images of various divinities carved into the rock of the hill. The caves and other remains found at the site show that the site had passed through the influence of Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism in those days.

Architecturally, the cave No I is of considerable interest, as it represents the earliest phase in the development of temple architecture in India, planned as it is with a small shrine and a simple porch in front.

Jain caves

The enshrined figure was originally hewn out of the solid rock of the back wall of the temple. This was roughly chiselled off, but the outline of a figure in standing pose could be seen clearly. This cave is connected with Jainism. The cave No. 20 on the north-eastern top of the hill contains a few images of Jain *Tirthankaras* and an important inscription of the Gupta period. It is also one of the fine caves located here. It is dedicated to the twenty-third Jain *Tirthankara*, Parshvanatha. The main excavation which is about 17x8m. is divided into five compartments, the southernmost room being again subdivided into three. The inscription is engraved on the face of the rock in one of the northern rooms. It is in eight lines. It is dated in the year 106 of the Gupta Era, corresponding to A. D. 272.

All the remaining 18 caves are of Brahmanical origin. Caves Nos 2 and 3 are small cells with a few sculptural remains. Cave No 4, enshrining a *lingam* is named by Cunningham as Veena cave from the figure of a man on the boss of the doorway, who is represented as playing on the Indian lute (*Veena*). It is one of the fine caves. This is a single-room cave approached by an ornamental doorway. In the boss to the extreme right the second man is depicted as playing on *Sarangi* or *Guitar*. In the portion standing at right angles with this cave images of *Ashta Shakti* or female energies are located.

Brahmanical
caves

Cave No.5 is remarkable for a colossal representation of *Varaha Avatara*, the third incarnation of Vishnu. This cave is a large open cutting about one metre deep, 6.5 m. long by about 4 m. high. Here Vishnu is represented as a man with a boar's head, placing his left foot on the coils of the Naga king who has a canopy of thirteen snakes' heads. With his right tusk he raises the slender and tiny figure of Prithvi, (the personified form of the earth) from out of the waters of the ocean shown by the wavy lines in the background. The event here depicts the cosmic myth of the creation of order out of chaos, by Vishnu in the form of *Varaha*. The *Devas* and *Asuras*, witnessing this cosmic event with inter-

Varaha Avatara
Cave

est, are shown in the background at the top on either side. On the left and right walls of the cave descent of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna from the heavens to the sea, accompanied by heavenly dancers and musicians, is depicted. The rivers are personified as females holding vessels of water in obeisance to the *Varaha*. The waters of the two rivers, joining together, are shown as entering into the sea which the god of the ocean *Varuna* receives. Artistically the scene is of great interest to the history of the sculpture of the Gupta period of the 4th and 5th centuries A. D.

Of the other caves the most notable are caves Nos. 6 and 7. Both these contain important historical inscriptions of the Gupta period. The cave No. 6 bears inscription of Chandragupta II dated in the year 82 of the Gupta Era. The cave has a room and rock-cut *verandah* in front of the door of the cave. The doorway is richly carved with bell-capital pilasters supporting the river goddesses. Over the figures of Vishnu and Mahishasuri Devi there is a large panel, containing a two-line inscription referred to above. Besides, several short inscriptions were found on the ceiling of the cave.

At a short distance from cave No. 6 there is an almost isolated mass of rock, hewn into the shape of a hemispherical *stupa* with square base. It is crowned by a large flat stone resembling a gigantic *tawa* (griddle) and inducing local people to call it 'Tawa cave'.

On the back wall of it there is an inscription of five lines, indicating that the cave was made by a minister of Chandragupta. The roof inside is ornamented with a large lotus flower. The inscription informs that the minister accompanied the king and made this cave, dedicated to Shambhu or Siva. Unfortunately the inscription is not dated. It is interesting to note that caves dedicated to Vishnu or his incarnations are plenty in the region, but the present one is dedicated to Siva. Cave No. 13 contains a large rock-cut image of *Sheshshayi*.

In one of the caves called Amrita cave by Cunningham, situated close to the Udayagiri village, is a *lingam*. But from a pilgrim's record dated in A. D. 1036 it is certain that it was then dedicated to Vishnu. Its roof is supported by four rock-hewn massive pillars with richly ornamented capitals. The roof is divided into nine square panels by the architraves. The doorway of this cave is also extensively ornamented. The panels in the cave depicts two river goddesses and above the lines of ornament is a deeply-carved sculpture, representing the churning of the ocean by the *Suras* and *Asuras*. It is presumed that this cave is the latest of all the Udayagiri group of caves. It is the largest in the group.

All round the south of the hill as well as on the top of the hill numerous remains presumably of the Buddhist origin are found. Thus

in the neighbourhood, the sites yielded Buddhist railing, and rail-bar, which indicate the existence of a Buddhist *stupa*. Besides, an abacus of a Buddhist pillar ornamented with railing and fragments of bell-capital, pilasters of a very early temple were also found. On the top of the hill traces of a large square platform and a bell capital of a large pillar surmounted by a lion were found. The latter is preserved in Gwalior Museum. Two pieces of circular shaft of this pillar were also noticed here.

The village Udayagiri, situated at the foot of the hill, occupies an area of about 203 hectares. Its population in 1971 was 201 as against 171 in 1961 and 118 in 1901.

Udayapur (23°54' N; 78°6' E)

Udayapur, once a place of considerable importance is a large village in Basoda Tahsil. Its nearest railway station is Bareth, situated at a distance of about 6.5 km. to the west of Udayapur. The latter is connected by road with Bareth railway station on Bhopal-Bina main line of the Central Railway. The village is also connected by road with Basoda, lying to the south-west of Udayapur at a distance of about 13 km. It is about 55 km. to the north-east of Vidisha, the District headquarters. Both these are linked by road on which buses ply via Basoda.

Udayapur appears to be an ancient place, as is evidenced by the traces of an old fortification wall of great uncemented stone blocks, found extended upto a rocky hill about one km. to the south of the village. Besides, the village has a few monuments which deserve notice.

According to one of the many old Sanskrit inscriptions found here, Udayapura town was founded by the Paramara king Udayaditya during the latter half of the 11th century A.D.

The same inscription also mentions that the king built a temple dedicated to Siva and named it as Udayeshwara. The temple still exists here by the same name and the inscription is in this temple. Two other inscriptions of the temple refer to the construction work of the temple which commenced in *Vikrama Samvat* 1116 corresponding to A. D. 1059. Its flag-staff, as stated therein, was erected in *Vikrama Samvat* 1137 corresponding to A. D. 1080. Thus these records make it abundantly clear that the Udayeshwara temple was constructed by the order of king Udayaditya of the Paramara dynasty, between the years A. D. 1059 and 1080. The temple stands in a spacious square courtyard again enclosed with a dwarf compound wall, the outer face of which was decorated with carvings. Inner face of the enclosure wall had a line of seats furnished with back rests. The compound had originally four entrances, the principal of which was one facing

Udayeshwara
Temple

to the east, all having flight of steps guarded on either side by a figure of a door-keeper.

Of the eight attendant shrines which surrounded the main temple only six are standing in ruinous condition and sheltered subsidiary gods. The main temple includes a shrine room, a hall and three entrance porches. It enshrines a large *lingam*, covered with a brass sheet presented by a general of Mahadji Sindhia in 1775, as is recorded in a contemporary record. The shrine doorway is sculptured in mediaeval fashion. The bull in the hall is inartistic and is a modern creation. Pillars and seats in all the three porches are engraved with numerous Sanskrit inscriptions and a few pilgrims' records, some of which are historically important.

The exterior of the temple is profusely adorned with sculptures representing various deities of the Hindu pantheon, like Brahma, Vishnu, Ganesha, Kshetrapalas, etc. But among the sculptures those of Siva and Durga are predominant. The spire is tall and beautifully designed, while the hall and porches have pyramidal roofs. The spire is unrivalled in beauty and most fascinating. Precision and delicacy of carving are in perfect form. It is decorated with its own miniature repetitions arranged in vertical ribs and medallions inset with figures of gods.

Muhammadian invaders mutilated the figure sculptures of the temples. Muhammad Tughluq, between A. D. 1336-38 damaged the attendant temples and erected a mosque at the back of the temple, using the material from the demolished temples. Two Persian inscriptions in the mosque record its construction by him.

The temple is a fine example of Indo-Aryan style of temple architecture in its fully developed stage. The style of sculptures here closely resembles that exhibited at Khajuraho. The ornamental motives of flowers, etc., are finer than those at Khajuraho at some places. The inscription of Udayaditya Paramara, referred to above, also informs that the king excavated a tank known after him as Udayasamudra, ruins of which are seen at a short distance.

Another monument is popularly known as Bijamandal or Ghadiyalan-kamakan. It is in ruinous condition. It is a two-storeyed house close to and probably contemporary with the grand temple described above. Its name suggests that probably the building was there to house a time-keeper or clockman attached to the famous temple. The incomplete Sanskrit record on the building opens with a praise to the Sun-god. The Barakhambi is a part of a temple built in the 11th century A.D. It stands on the outskirts of the village. The part represents a hall containing

Bijamandal or
Ghadiyalanka Makan
Barakhambi
Pisanari-ka-Mandir

raised seats with back rests. It has a ceiling of a massive slab. The Pisanari-ka mandir is a remnant of an old temple traditionally said to have been built by a woman, out of her earnings obtained by grinding flour for the workmen employed on the construction of Udayeshwara temple. But from architectural point this building is of much later date.

At a little distance towards the east of the graceful temple stands this imposing edifice now in ruins. Work on this Shahi-masjid, according to the Persian inscription in it was commenced during the reign of Jehangir and completed in that of Shahjahan in A. D. 1632. Close to this edifice remains of a palace or mansion, meant probably for the then local governor's residence is noticed. Its style is simple and elegant as found in early Mughal buildings. The remnants have some good *Jali* work in stone. In front of the mosque there is a large platform supporting many tombs. Reference has already been made to the fortification wall of Udaypur. Just outside the eastern gate of this wall there are ruins of a small mosque, graveyard and a common raised platform. The architecture of the mosque resembles that of Mandu buildings of Muslim origin. According to the Persian and Sanskrit inscriptions on it, it was constructed by an agent of Sherkhan during the reign of Ghias Shah Khilji, Sultan of Mandu in A. D. 1488. A few other monuments include a large *Ghod-daud-ki-baodi* having spacious and easy flight of steps, along which horses could run down to reach the water, and rock sculptures in the vicinity, like a huge unfinished image and a panel of *Sapta Matrikas* in the side of an adjoining hill, the shape of which is like a Buddhist *Stupa*.

The Village has primary and higher secondary, schools *ayurvedic* and veterinary dispensaries and post office. Weekly market is held here on every Monday. It covers an area of about 1,966 hectares. Its population was 928 in 1901 while it increased to 2025 in 1971 as against 1619 in 1901.

Vidisha (23° 30' N, 77° 50' E)

The District headquarters town, as it stands today, is different from the old town of Vidisha or Besnagar. Till 1956 its name was Bhilsa. After that it was renamed as Vidisha for its close proximity to that glorious city of great antiquity.

Vidisha is a railway station on the Delhi-Bombay main line of the Central Railway, at a distance of about 56 km. from Bhopal by rail. By road it is about 81 km. from Bhopal. A large number of roads radiates from this town and connects it with various places inside and outside the District like Sironj,

Teonda, Basoda, Ashok Nagar, Berasia and Shamshabad. All these are 1st class all weather roads. The town is situated on the eastern bank of Betwa. Present day Vidisha is surrounded with square stone walls, evidently built of the material from the ruins of the ancient city of Vidisha or Besnagar. The outer wall is pierced by three gates. Within this enclosure the town contains a good number of buildings, all Muhammadan, which mostly used remains of earlier structures. The houses look substantial and are built mostly of the local sandstone, but the whole town betrays an air of departed grandeur.

As has been stated earlier, the old city of Vidisha or Besnagar was abandoned by its citizens, who crossed the river Betwa from its western bank and established themselves on its south-eastern side. In the ancient and mediaeval times of 9th to 12th centuries A. D. Bhilsa appears to have continued to maintain, in a way, the cultural importance of original Vidisha of great antiquity.

Bhilla Svamin
Temple

Then it was a prosperous centre of Jainism and Hinduism in this part of the country. A number of magnificent temples were built here, which the Muhammadan chronicles refer to, and have been destroyed by invaders in subsequent times. The new town was known as Bhilsa from its association with a Sun temple, whose deity was known as *Bhillasvamin*. Two inscriptions recovered from Bhilsa affirm the existence of this temple of *Bhillasvamin* as early as in A. D. 939-68. According to one inscription one minister Vachaspati erected this temple during the rule of his lord King Krishna. He may be taken as the Rashtrakuta monarch Krishna III, whose known dates are A.D. 939-68. The date of the desertion of Besnagar and the establishment of the new town can, thus, be placed conveniently somewhere between 8th or 9th century A. D. According to a Chandella record dated in 1133 A. D., however, Bhilsa was known as *Bhasvat* too, on the bank of the Malavanadi (Vetravati). Yet another inscription of the Paramara ruler Udayaditya from Udayapur and dated in 1173 A. D. speaks of its surrounding area as *Bhilasvami-mahadevadasakamandala* (the district called *Bhaillasvamin* consisting of ten sub-divisions), which included *Bhringarika-chatuhshashtipathaka* (i. e. a sub-district called *Bhringarika* consisting of 64 villages) governed by a *Danda*, i. e. *Dandanayaka*, probably having his headquarters at Udayapur.

As recorded in Minhaj-us-Siraj's *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, the Muhammadans destroyed a great temple of this region, 300 years after its erection, which was 5 *Gaz* in height. Probably he referred to none other than the *Bhillasvami* temple at Bhilsa. About 1030 A. D. Alberuni described this city as *Bhailsan* or *Mahabalisthan*, existing on the road from Mathura to Ujjayini and Dhara.¹ Under the Sultans of Malwa, Bhilsa was one of the provincial capitals of their

1. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXX, pp. 210-11.

kingdom. Under the Mughals its importance was reduced by making it the headquarters of a *mahal*. Aurangzeb tried to rename the city as Alamgirnagar after himself, but without success. The Jain scriptures knew the town as Bhadalpur, the birth place of Sheetalanath the tenth *Tirthankara*, whose birth day is still celebrated here with enthusiasm. In Brahmanical religious observances again, the place is called Bhadravati, the residence of Yuvanashva who supplied the famous horse to Yudhishtira during his *Ashvamedha* sacrifice.

Objects of historical and tourists interest within the town are not many. One of these is the Lohangi Rock, an isolated sand-stone peak near the railway station. The rock is about 6.086 metres in altitude, and rather a flat top of 9.129 metres in diameter. On its western side there is a low mosque with two Persian inscriptions inside. One, dated A.H. 864 (A.D. 1460), belongs to Mahmud Khilji I of Malwa and the other is of Akbar, dated A. H. 987 (A. D. 1583). The tomb of *Lohangi-Pir* (the title of Sheik Jalal Chisti), after whom the rock is named, is situated on its top. A bell-capital of a gigantic Buddhist pillar atop the rock is popularly known as *Pani-ki-Kundi*.² An old covered masonry tank is also there.

Next in importance comes the Gumbaz-ka-maqbara, a small tomb, situated in the old fortified portion of the town. It consists of a single-domed chamber with a *verandah* and two graves. One bears an inscription in Persian dated in A. D. 1487. The inmate of this tomb was a big merchant.

By far the most interesting piece of the town is the Bijamandal mosque, which preserves its Hindu association in its name. The mosque is perched on the foundation of an old Hindu temple of the 11th century A.D. Evidently the material of the demolished shrine was used to construct the new building by Aurangzeb in 1682. From the fine platform and the general plan it is evident that the former temple was a magnificent one. The original temple was dedicated to the goddess Charchika. Another name of the deity might have been Vijaya after whom the temple was once called the Vijaya Mandir.

The town is one of the important grain *mandis* of the region and a whole sale and retail marketing centre, having offices of the State Bank of Indore, the Central Co-operative Bank, etc. Weekly market in this electrified town is held on every Monday. This municipal town has usual district and tahsil

1. Archaeological Survey Report, Vol. XX, pp. 34-35.

offices of the Government. A large Nagpanchami fair is held near *Bijamandal* on that day.

There is one *dal* mill, oil mill, board and paper mill and a government factory manufacturing metal containers and steel trunks. The town has many primary, middle and higher secondary schools, polytechnic institute, engineering, arts and science colleges, public reading rooms and libraries, post, telegraph and public call offices, dispensaries, hospital, veterinary hospital, artificial insemination unit, rest-house, circuit house, family planning centre, maternity home, cinema houses, etc.

The town covers an area of about 584 hectares. Its population increased to 43,212 in 1971 from 27,713 in 1961 and 9,670 in 1901.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX—A

(Statistical Tables)

1. Normals and Extremes of Rainfall
2. Frequency of Annual Rainfall
3. Average Monthly Rainfall in Vidisha District During 1950-1968.
4. Monthly Rainfall and Rainy Days
5. Land Utilization
6. Area Irrigated by Sources
7. Area under Principal Crops
8. Production of Principal Crops
9. Agricultural Implements and Machinery
10. Livestock Number
11. Poultry Number
12. Cooperative Marketing Societies in Vidisha District (Membership & Share Capital)
13. Cooperative Marketing Societies-Sales
14. Primary Agricultural Credit and Multipurpose Societies in Vidisha District
15. Persons Engaged in Trade and Commerce
16. Receipts from Different Sources of Revenue
17. Number of Permit-holders (for Liquor) on Medical Ground
18. Quantity of Liquor Consumed by Permit-holders
19. Liquor Offences
20. Prohibition Cases
21. Prohibition Offences
22. Untouchability Offences

APPENDIX—B

1. List of Common Trees, etc.
2. Irrigation Projects Maintained by Public Works Department
3. Small Scale Industries in Vidisha District
4. List of Post Offices in Vidisha District
5. Conversion Table
6. List of Freedom Fighters of the District

TABLE--1

Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No. of years of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual rainfall	Highest annual rainfall	Lowest annual rainfall	Annual Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours*
Vidisha	50	a 10.0	7.6	7.1	3.3	8.6	138.4	381.8	334.0	205.7	32.8	18.5	7.9	1,159.7	177 (1948)	51 (1920)	328.9 1939, Sept. 7
	b	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.9	7.1	15.2	13.6	8.6	1.4	1.0	0.7	51.4			
Basoda	45	a 16.8	10.9	5.1	2.0	5.3	130.1	374.9	356.9	191.3	21.6	19.6	6.6	1,141.1	172 (1934)	51 (1920)	360.2 1951, July 31
	b	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6	6.4	13.8	13.1	7.4	1.2	1.0	0.6	46.9			
Kurwai	50	a 17.3	11.4	5.8	2.3	9.1	120.4	383.3	328.9	172.2	24.6	17.8	7.9	1,101.0	166 (1917)	44 (1941)	252.7 1929, July 11
	b	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.3	1.0	6.6	14.9	13.7	8.0	1.4	1.0	0.8	50.8			
Pathari	39	a 22.3	10.4	3.6	3.8	10.9	146.8	428.5	369.3	199.1	24.9	23.4	10.4	1,253.4	189 (1934)	36 (1941)	252.7 1929, July 9
	b	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.4	1.1	6.5	15.9	14.8	8.7	1.3	1.4	0.8	53.6			
Mohammadgarh	38	a 17.8	11.4	8.6	4.3	7.1	175.0	536.7	438.7	234.7	30.0	23.6	7.4	1,495.3	153 (1948)	54 (1918)	217.7 1922, July, 5
	b	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8	7.6	16.6	15.6	8.8	1.7	1.1	0.6	56.2			
Vidisha District		a 17.6	10.3	6.0	3.1	8.2	142.1	421.0	365.6	200.6	26.8	20.6	8.0	1,229.9	149 (1948)	59 (1905)	
	b	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.9	6.8	15.3	14.1	8.3	1.4	1.1	0.7	51.8			

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.

(b) Average number of rainy days, (days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more).

* Based on all available data upto 1961.

** Years given in brackets.

TABLE—II

Frequency of Annual Rainfall
(1901--1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
701—800	4	1,301—1,400	5
801—900	3	1,401—1,500	2
901—1,000	11	1,501—1,600	3
1,001—1,100	5	1,601—1,700	3
1,101—1,200	7	1,701—1,800	2
1,201—1,300	3	1,801—1,900	2

TABLE—III

Average Monthly Rainfall in Vidisha During the Years 1950 to 1968.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1950				0.02	0.02	2.06	12.50	10.11	4.68	—	—	1.21
1951	0.43	0.04	0.19	0.05	0.07	1.48	15.41	10.53	2.93	0.27	—	—
1952	0.09	1.45	0.02	—	0.07	9.22	15.81	14.46	1.77	—	—	0.40
1953	1.21	0.75	0.19	—	0.25	0.71	17.46	13.97	4.90	0.89	—	—
1954						1.76	15.95	6.63	17.38	0.61	—	—
1955	1.61	0.01	0.04	0.42	—							
1956						7.43	30.04	14.31	4.80	0.67	0.30	0.33
1957	0.76	Nil	2.70	0.62	Nil							
1958												
1959	30.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	35.6	392.6	343.0	361.7	86.4	Nil	Nil
1960	71.1	Nil	9.4	Nil	Nil	85.1	641.8	507.7	290.1	101.1	Nil	Nil
1961												
1962	30.0	11.0	3.9	7.4	3.4	86.0	536.0	410.6	676.4	121.2	48.0	Nil
1963	21.0	12.0	2.0	3.4	6.0	22.2	250.3	275.0	270.8	Nil	Nil	0.5
1964	Nil	Nil	2.5	Nil	9.9	64.6	282.9	405.9	141.3	2.2	21.3	2.3
1965	1.1	1.9	0.6	—	—	134.9	303.6	401.9	198.3	—	—	0.7
1966	3.2	0.2	0.4	—	—	26.4	337.7	145.3	161.4	6.0	—	10.8
1967	—	—	44.4	2.4	8.2	63.8	323.9	262.9	56.3	0.5	510	2.6
1968	7.7	—	2.8	0.8	—	133.5	277.0	259.3	252.8	4.0	—	84.1

The figures pertain to the Directorate of Land Records, Madhya Bharat and Madhya Pradesh, respectively, quoted in the yearly Season and Crop Reports.

TABLE—IV

Monthly Rainfall and Rainy Days (1951 to 1960)

(In mm.)

Recording Year Station	1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Vidisha	34	880.6	50	1,050.9	43	1,049.2	55	1,397.9	69	1,445.8	67	1,521.9
Basoda	29	978.2	58	1,306.1	48	1,006.4	53	1,088.4	72	1,416.6	71	1,942.8
Kurwai	32	493.0	38	968.4	35	894.1	56	919.4	62	1,188.5	59	1,129.9
District Average	32	783.9	49	1,108.5	42	983.2	55	1,135.2	68	1,356.3	66	1,531.5
Cont.....												

(a) No. of Rainy days.

(b) Monthly Rainfall.

Source : District Census Hand Book, Vidisha, 1961, Pp. 298—299

Station	1957		1958		1959		1960	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Vidisha	51	843.2	55	1,219.3	65	1,742.6	50	1,272.3
Basoda	62	1,037.4	61	1,220.9	60	1,496.0	50	1,206.5
Kurwai	46	822.5	49	937.3	63	1,450.3	42	922.0
District Average	53	901.0	56	1,125.8	63	1,563.0	47	1,133.6

TABLE—V

Land Utilization

Year	Geographical Area According to Village Papers	Forests	Land Put to Non-Agricultural Uses	Barren & Unculturable Land	Permanent Pastures and Other Grazing Land	Land Under Miscellaneous Trees Crops & Groves
	1	2	3	4	5	6
(In Acres)						
1950—51	11,21,127	84,351	53,468	93,764	25,141	2,316
1951—52	11,21,127	84,351	53,468	93,764	25,141	2,316
1956—57	18,04,798	1,11,225	68,667	2,20,561	37,570	1,030
1961—62	18,04,467	1,85,027	82,388	82,708	2,53,608	3,686
1964—65	18,04,441	1,96,901	82,375	67,186	1,99,652	7,025
(In Hectares)						
1966—67	7,30,221	80,333	34,228	25,301	56,848	597
1967—68	7,30,221	80,677	33,586	24,394	50,776	67
1971—72	7,30,212	81,070	33,669	22,996	52,999	31
	Culturable Wasts Land	Current Fallows	Other Fallow Land	Net Area Sown	Area Sown More Than Once	Total Cropped Area
	7	8	9		11	12
(In Acres)						
1950—51	2,73,157	36,296	57,153	4,95,481	23,747	5,19,228
1951—52	2,73,157	36,296	57,153	4,95,481	23,747	5,19,228
1956—57	4,58,046	27,792	40,879	8,44,028	25,336	8,69,364
1961—62	2,03,664	15,326	21,882	9,54,874	23,397	9,78,271
1964—65	1,76,634	12,636	21,705	10,40,327	22,243	10,62,570
(In Hectares)						
1966—67	57,911	4,074	7,461	4,63,468	6,346	4,69,814
1967—68	56,771	3,914	6,421	4,73,615	8,462	4,82,077
1971—72	37,767	4,014	5,572	491,391	9,966	5,01,357

TABLE—VI

Area Irrigated by Sources

Year	Canals	Tanks	Wells	Others	Total
					(In Acres)
1951—52	9	9	801	39	858
1956—57	—	—	1,708	90	1,798
1961—62	424	—	1,824	90	2,338
1964—65	1,739	213	2,613	203	4,768
					(In Hectares)
1966—67	1,003	6	1,089	104	2,202
1967—68	2,286	2	1,098	115	3,501
1969—70*	0.5	—	1.3	0.2	2.0
1970—71*	0.6	0.2	1.4	0.6	2.8
1971—72*	0.7	0.3	2.0	0.8	3.8
1972—73	1,227	211	1,723	1,044	4,205

* Figures are in thousands.

TABLE—VII
Area Under Principal Crops

Year	Paddy	Jowar	Maize	Wheat	Gram	Sesamum	Rape and Mustard	Lin- seed
(In Acres)								
1951—52	6,462	77,837	6,901	2,04,003	1,32,651	6,328	3,100	31,550
1956—57	2,779	72,051	16,426	4,94,379	1,76,519	4,438	10,389	41,558
1961—62	3,555	1,29,592	16,480	5,30,204	1,69,944	3,827	10,456	41,040
1964—65	3,977	1,31,637	16,851	5,50,712	1,75,629	11,967	11,080	39,836
(In '000 Hectares)								
1965—66	1.6	53.3	7.3	205.0	91.3	6.6	0.7	13.1
1966—67	1.3	61.1	7.3	1,95.9	1,00.4	9.9	1.0	12.1
1967—68	1.3	82.8	7.8	1,94.7	83.5	10.0	3.7	15.7
1968—69	1.4	65.5	7.9	240.5	76.1	2.9	3.8	11.9
1969—70	1.2	49.4	7.6	257.6	76.0	1.1	4.7	15.6
1970—71	1.4	50.2	7.7	251.0	81.0	1.8	4.7	17.7
1971—72	1.5	38.5	7.8	248.7	92.5	1.1	4.8	24.7
1972—73	1.7	49.1	8.0	235.5	94.9	1.2	4.8	20.3

TABLE—VIII
Production of Principal Crops

Year	Paddy	Jowar	Maize	Wheat	Gram	Sesamum	Rape & Mustard	Lin- seed
(In '000 Tons)								
1951—52	0.4	18.6	1.7	20.5	40.0	2.9	0.8	7.5
1956—57	0.3	20.6	3.7	65.5	52.5	0.3	0.8	3.0
1961—62	0.7	12.0	0.6	159.7	39.7	0.2	1.0	3.9
(In '000 Metric Tons)								
1965—66	0.7	37.3	7.2	122.6	45.3	1.1	0.2	3.2
1966—67	0.6	35.7	8.6	97.8	36.7	1.5	0.2	3.4
1967—68	0.7	61.6	8.9	155.7	43.3	1.2	1.0	4.8
1968—69	0.5	37.6	6.8	176.0	32.1	0.7	1.3	3.2
1969—70	0.5	18.8	5.7	158.7	51.1	0.2	1.7	5.0
1970—71	0.7	26.9	10.2	154.7	34.1	0.3	1.4	4.7
1971—72	0.8	15.7	7.8	206.0	56.7	0.2	2.1	6.9
1972—73	0.7	39.3	9.9	166.4	79.5	0.3	2.5	7.0

TABLE—IX

Agricultural Implements & Machinery

Year	Wooden Ploughs	Iron Ploughs	Carts	Sugarcane Crushers	Irrigation		Tractors		Ghani	
					Pumps	Diesel	Electric	Govt.		Private
1951	56,715	36	24,823	98	29	—	5		161	
1956	67,743 (+20)	44 (+22)	33,759 (+36)	131	23 (-21)		1	30	329	
1961	1,03,070 (+52)	61 (+39)	44,381 (+31)	160 (+22)	28 (+22)	8	21	121 +303	209 (-36)	
1968	84,106	276	47,280	264	141	58	143		103	
1971-72	80,998	590	53,955	152	474	177	404		N.A.	

Note :— Figures in bracket indicate percentage variation.

TABLE—X
Livestock Number

Year	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horses & Ponies	Mules	Donkeys	Camels	Pigs	Total Live- stock
1951	4,24,143	79,353	10,646	19,221	3,594	33	1,185	115	1,808	5,40,098
1956	4,62,332 (+9)	81,515 (+3)	15,085 (+42)	30,057 (+56)	4,263 (+19)	4	1,336 (+13)	254 (+121)	1,194	5,96,040 (+11)
1961	4,86,468 (+5)	89,530 (+10)	12,873 (-15)	38,614 (+28)	5,082 (+19)	36 (+800)	1,366 (+2)	357 (+41)	700 (-41)	6,35,036
1968	4,15,599	92,013	13,743	48,808	4,684	116	1,357	24	1,421	5,77,325

Note :— Figures in bracket indicate percentage variation.

TABLE—XI
Poultry Number

Year	Fowls	Ducks	Others	Total
1951	12,690	32	N. A.	12,722
1956	17,332 (+37)	38 (+19)	395 —	17,765 (+40)
1961	23,564 (+36)	60 (+58)	43 (—89)	23,667 (+33)
1968	26,654	76	—	26,730

Note :— Figures in bracket indicate percentage variation.



TABLE—XII
Co-operative Marketing Societies in Vidisha District
(Membership and Share Capital)

Particulars	Name of the society	Year (as on 30th June)				(Amount in Rs.)
		1967	1968	1969	1970	
Membership	Vidisha	460	417	435	447	472
	Ganj Basoda	269	202	350	399	472
	Sironj	219	199	221	240	224
	Kurwai	189	155	173	174	178
Share Capital	Vidisha	1,38,004	1,42,124	1,79,791	2,08,673	3,12,368
	Ganj Basoda	1,50,327	1,47,592	1,75,283	1,95,273	4,19,765
	Sironj	1,03,103	1,05,888	1,22,098	1,32,945	1,83,638
	Kurwai	91,700	89,500	98,617	1,02,128	1,00,238

TABLE—XIII

Co-operative Marketing Societies in Vidisha District
(Sales for the year 1964—65 to 1970—71)

Name of the commodity sold	Years							(Amount in Rs.)
	1964—65	1965—66	1966—67	1967—68	1968—69	1969—70	1970—71	
Agricultural produce	21,34,861	8,43,367	25,96,158	57,77,950	43,54,475	38,05,988	65,24,037	
Fertilisers	—	8,112	32,635	19,740	60,894	95,045	87,058	
Agricultural implements	50,388	21,762	8,910	23,100	79,129	99,131	2,12,996	
Pesticides	—	750	239	558	1,691	—	1,844	
Cement, Iron etc,	2,48,150	1,50,825	1,56,496	1,51,582	3,19,573	2,44,027	2,52,950	
Consumer's goods	15,10,743	15,54,174	20,80,749	31,52,140	30,79,291	—	7,81,273	
Linking of marketing with credit	8,40,944	32,39,736	3,60,941	2,03,715	7,71,701	—	9,77,22	
Profit (+) or Loss (—)	(+) 8,48,752	(+) 3,57,132	(+) 1,59,240	(+) 1,05,735	(+) 1,08,249	—	(—) 3,47,886	

TABLE—XIV
Primary Agricultural Credit and Multipurpose Societies in Vidisha District

Year	Number of societies	Number of members	Share Capital	Deposits	Working capital	Credit operation			Loans out-standing	Loans over-due
						Loans advanced	Loans recovered	(Amount in '000 Rs.)		
1965—66	390	26,800	38,58	10,08	2,25,59	1,60,77	1,40,40		1,78,20	16,43
1966—67	178	28,585	45,15	12,09	2,82,13	2,05,36	1,44,12		2,17,82	16,88
1967—68	176	29,172	46,62	12,08	2,60,18	1,22,79	1,41,66		1,99,97	48,03
1968—69	175	29,014	50,40	14,99	2,71,71	1,69,98	1,59,46		2,10,49	44,34
1969—70	175	29,985	56,90	18,11	3,05,63	1,89,26	1,59,67		2,40,08	65,92
1970—71	173	30,911	62,29	20,63	3,30,10	1,84,12	1,63,52		2,60,70	84,80

TABLE—XV
Persons Engaged in Trade and Commerce in Vidisha District

Tahsil	Rural areas			Urban areas		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Vidisha	796	645	151	1,908	1,755	153
Ganj Basoda	878	756	122	1,078	1,038	40
Kurwai	337	267	70	241	222	19
Sironj	422	352	70	1,012	960	52
Lateri	212	179	33	—	—	—
Total	2,645	2,199	446	4,239	3,975	264

Source :— Census, 1961

TABLE—XVI
Receipts from Different Sources of Revenue

Sources of Revenue.	1964—65	1965—66	1966—67	1967—68	1968—69	1969—70	1970—71	1971—72
(In Rs.)								
Central								
1. Income Tax	7,26,818	10,20,550	9,31,386	10,09,243	14,17,236	12,05,252	11,68,562	14,31,024
2. Union Excise	2,21,705	2,23,391	2,42,283	3,62,554	4,07,742	5,81,129	6,85,384	6,13,761
3. Estate Duty	—	1,604	1,035	6,449	3,489	1,732	9,505	2,692
State								
1. Excise	57,207	61,100	64,066	8,44,928	17,12,711	14,66,843	16,70,027	12,74,522
2. Stamps	3,38,840	3,83,358	4,95,267	5,66,092	6,69,549	7,34,895	7,56,562	7,86,712
3. Forest	2,37,537	3,29,322	3,36,995	3,08,304	3,01,211	3,50,198	5,09,657	4,04,791
4. Registration	39,171	55,258	70,802	52,133	99,676	1,26,448	1,22,551	1,26,140
5. Taxes on Motor Vehicles	1,04,151	1,33,418	1,48,481	1,44,721	1,45,764	1,35,065	1,39,002	1,40,219
6. Sales Tax								
(a) State Sales Tax Act	13,54,994	11,34,235	19,23,543	16,61,552	18,58,692	21,96,680	23,19,926	21,22,777
(b) Central Sales Tax Act	1,36,545	2,04,550	4,52,201	4,85,078	5,45,949	6,14,384	6,35,211	5,45,389
(c) Motor Spirit Lubrication Tax Act	725	11,379	2,193	7,628	8,318	20,552	11,772	5,654
7. Entertainment Tax	1,35,973	1,62,411	1,68,370	1,84,248	1,95,958	2,21,043	2,45,669	2,48,997

TABLE—XVII

Number of Permit-holders for Liquor on Medical Ground

Year	Liquor	Opium	Ganja
1949—50	186	308	47
1950—51	186	308	47
1951—52	14	102	9
1952—53	12	86	8
1953—54	11	77	5
1954—55	8	69	5
1955—56	6	55	3
1956—57	6	49	3
1957—58	7	41	3
1958—59	25	41	2
1959—60	22	67	2
1960—61	25	53	2
1961—62	22	25	—
1962—63	15	—	5
1963—64	25	—	7
1964—65	18	—	7
1965—66	5	—	5
1966—67	16	—	6
1967—68*	11	—	6

* From 1st September, 1967 the District became wet.

TABLE—XVIII
Quantity of Liquor Consumed by Permit-holders

(in proof litres)			
Year	Liquor	Year	Liquor
1954—55	12,759	1961—62	772
1955—56	15,948	1962—63	128
1956—57	2,151	1963—64	126
1957—58	504	1964—65	666
1958—59	324	1965—66	55
1959—60	243	1966—67	292
1960—61	589	1967—68	47,029



TABLE—XIX

Liquor Offences

Year	Smuggling	Illicit distillation	Other	Total
1955—56	33	26	35	94
1956—57	25	33	52	110
1957—58	63	59	39	161
1958—59	70	66	63	199
1959—60	100	100	80	287
1960—61	—	140	113	253
1961—62	—	64	46	110
1962—63	—	123	66	189
1963—64	23	103	19	125
1964—65	2	94	12	108
1965—66	10	188	45	243
1966—67	15	116	16	147
1967—68	6	169	58	233

TABLE—XX
Prohibition Cases (Ganja and Opium)

Year	Ganja Cases		Opium Cases		Total
	Illicit cultivation	Other	Smuggling	Other	
1955—56	—	6	17	—	23
1956—57	—	11	9	—	20
1957—58	—	9	14	—	23
1958—59	—	10	29	—	39
1959—60	—	1	28	—	29
1960—61	—	4	6	1	11
1961—62	2	—	4	—	6
1962—63	—	10	6	—	16
1963—64	—	10	7	2	19
1964—65	5	4	3	2	14
1965—66	1	10	9	1	21
1966—67	16	4	8	—	28
1967—68	11	—	9	1	21

TABLE—XXI
Prohibition Offences

Year	Results of Prosecution			Fines imposed (In Rs.)
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Imprisoned	
1	2	3	4	5
1955—56	125	50	—	300—00
1956—57	123	40	—	150—00
1957—58	184	80	—	225—00
1958—59	240	235	5	350—00
1959—60	316	316	—	300—00
1960—61	279	250	—	350—00
1961—62	127	127	—	900—00
1962—63	212	200	20	800—00
1963—64	154	125	25	500—00
1964—65	124	124	—	600—00
1965—66	266	250	—	700—00
1966—67	180	170	—	500—00
1967—68	261	253	8	700—00
1968—69	113	100	—	1000—00

TABLE—XXII
Untouchability Offences

Year	Registered		Challaned		Convicted		Aquitted		Compounded		Pending in court at the end of year	
	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons	Cases	Persons
1957—58	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
1958—59	5	9	5	9	1	2	1	1	3	6	—	—
1959—60	4	10	3	10	1	1	—	—	2	9	—	—
1960—61	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
1961—62	3	10	3	10	—	—	—	—	3	10	—	—
1962—63	3	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—
1963—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1964—65	3	5	3	5	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965—66	2	7	2	7	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	6
1966—67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967—68	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1969	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1970	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1

APPENDIX—B-I

List of Common Trees

Teak (*Tectona grandis*)
 Salaj or Salari (*Boswellia serrata*)
 Dhaora (*Anogeissus latifolia*)
 Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*)
 Seja (*Lagerstræmia Parviflora*)
 Bijasal (*Pteracarpus marsupium*)
 Tinsa (*Ougeinia dalbergiodes*)
 Semal (*Salmalia malabaricum*)
 Kaim (*Mitragyne parvifolia*)
 Palas (*Butea monosperma*)
 Saj (*Terminalia tomentosa*)
 Ghont (*Zizyphus xylopyra*)
 Phetra (*Gardenia turgida*)
 Bel (*Aegle marmelos*)
 Jamras (*Eleodendron glaucum*)
 Reunjha (*Acacia leucophloea*)
 Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*)
 Mokha (*Shrebera swietenoides*)
 Mahua (*Madhuca lalifolia*)
 Dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia*)
 Medhsingh' (*Dolichandrone falcata*)
 Hingat (*Balanites roxburghii*)
 Aonla (*Emblica officinalis*)
 Khair (*Acacia catechu*)
 Kari (*Saccopetalum tomentosum*)
 Jhingan (*Lannea grandis*)
 Sissoo (*Dalbergia sisoo*)
 Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*)

Common Underwood

Khair (*Acacia catechu*)
 Palas (*Butea monosperma*)
 Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*)
 Ghont (*Zizyphus xylopyra*)
 Achar (*Buchanania latifolia*)
 Dhaman (*Grewia tiliaefolia*)
 Bel (*Aegle marmelos*)
 Phetra (*Gardenia turgida*)
 Medhsingh (*Dolichandrone falcata*)
 Tinsa (*Ougeinia dalbergioids*)
 Jamrasi (*Eleodendron glaucum*)
 Dudhi (*Wrightia tinetoria*)
 Ashta (*Bauhinia racemosa*)
 Aonla (*Emblica officinalis*)
 Amaltas (*Cassia fistula*)
 Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*)

APPENDIX—B-II

Irrigation Projects Maintained by Public Works Department

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Designed Irrigation Area (Acres)	Area Irrigated During 1970—71
1	2	3	4	5
(A) PRE-PLAN Submergence Irrigation				
1.	Sojna Tank	—	223	134
2.	Hirnai "	—	185	98
3.	Lashkarpur "	—	117	79
4.	Nainatal "	—	148	159
5.	Kabulpur "	—	159	168
6.	Bhidwasan "	—	116	94
7.	Sonsera "	—	145	88
8.	Budi Bagrod "	—	216	116
9.	Parsora "	—	75	58
10.	Dhaturia "	—	25	35
11.	Bamankheda "	—	60	37
12.	Barro "	—	60	33
13.	Atasemar "	—	45	18
14.	Madia Semar "	—	46	39
15.	Saliya "	—	45	11
16.	Gunsagar "	—	25	10
Total			1750	1279

A Plan-Minor Schemes.

(i) Flow-Irrigation

1.	Jajone Tank	24.80	3,200	1,250
2.	Ghatera "	10.40	1,400	1,119
3.	Phupher "	3.04	760	454
4.	Ghosuwa "	4.54	650	—
5.	Sakhlone "	6.90	610	150
6.	Jawari "	6.71	600	100
7.	Jamwar "	2.69	580	270
8.	Bhilaya "	4.35	250	34 Canals under Construction
9.	Ghatera Babaji "	0.50	160	53

Contd.....

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Garhela Tank	0.20	100	I used for Nistar
11.	Badoh "	0.20	65	67
12.	Belai "	0.25	55	10
13.	Tarwaria "	0.20	55	17
14.	Pathari "	0.20	32	18
15.	Bamori "	0.20	85	1
16.	Tal "	0.25	50	7
17.	Murwas "	0.16	42	—
18.	Mahu "	0.26	80	—
Total		65.85	8,804	3,551

(ii) Lift-Irrigation

1.	Kararia Stop Dam	0.55	110	142
2.	Dongarwada "	0.28	60	17
3.	Rusali "	0.23	100	Under Construction
4.	Dafrai "	0.26	110	
Total		1.32	380	159

(iii) Submergence Irrigation

1.	Chitoria Tank	5.47	500	275 Under Construction
2.	Gobarhela "	0.75	237	182
3.	Thar "	2.43	184	137
4.	Pabai Hirnoda "	0.72	85	63
5.	Gyaraspur "	0.39	75	55
6.	Bagri "	0.20	29	80
7.	Hirnoda "	0.20	80	82
8.	Padaria "	0.20	85	34
9.	Imaliya "	0.20	50	29
10.	Rusalla "	0.20	67	26
11.	Madankhedi "	0.20	50	5
12.	Mehdone "	0.20	30	— Breached
13.	Uttamakhedi "	0.26	85	9
14.	Ekodia "	0.20	80	46

Contd.....

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Derkhi Tank	0.60	156	105
16.	Gadhela "	0.50	64	8
17.	Khamkheda "	0.20	60	17
18.	Jargunwa "	0.26	90	78
19.	Konsi "	0.24	65	25
20.	Baretha "	0.32	60	13
21.	Shahpur "	0.22	40	2
22.	Sherwasa "	0.20	65	46
23.	Mundri Khurd "	0.25	42	37
24.	Bagrod "	0.24	60	52
25.	Madhopur "	0.20	55	55
26.	Renkula "	0.20	60	41
Total		14.95	2,516	1,496
Total Plan		82.12	11,700	5,206
GRAND TOTAL		82.12	13,450	6,485

APPENDIX—B-III

**Small Scale Industries in Vidisha District
as on 31st December, 1969**

Type of manufacture	No. of units	Total employment	Installed Capacity (monthly)	Main commodities produced
1. Dairy Products	2	11	3 lakhs	Ice candy
2. Grain Mill Products	2	16	375 MT	Dal
3. Bakery products	1	8	2 MT	Biscuits, Bread
4. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	1	8	7.5 MT	Chocolate
5. Tobacco Manufactures	14	194+ 209(casual)	201 lakhs	Bidi
6. Spinning Weaving and Finishing of Textiles	1	10	400	Dari, Bedsheet
7. Foot Wear	3	23+51 (members)	1200 pairs	Country shoes
8. Furniture and fixture	2	12	60	Steel furniture, Sofa Set, cots
9. Letter press and Lithographic Printing and Binding	5	30	39,300	Bahikhata, Forms Copies, Register Envelopes and file
10. Rubber products	1	5	600	Tyre retreading
11. Vegetable and Animal oils and Fats (except non-edible oils)	2	20	13 MT	Oil Cake
12. Chemical Products	6	33	—	Agarbatti Wax candles Perfumed oil, B.H.C., D.D.T. D.P., & E.C., etc.

1	2	3	4	5
13. Structural clay products	5	65	26 lakh	Bricks
14. Non-metallic mineral products	1	5	2030 sq.ft.	Cement Jallies Ring
15. Non ferrous Basic metal Industries	1	9	—	moulding
16. Metal products except machinery and transport equipments	1	5	12115	Suit case, strainer kit Boxes
17. Machinery and parts (except electrical)	6	38+20 (members)	—	Agricultural implements, Dhurva, Datua, Rehat, Wimmer, phans, ploughs, Seed drills, Thrasher Leveller
18. Manufacture of Watches and clocks	1	5	100	Wall clock
19. Jewellery, etc.	2	10	15 kgs.	Ornaments
20. Plastic Moulded goods	1	5	6000	Plastic goods
21. Manufacture of Ice	1	5	150 MT	Ice

APPENDIX—B—IV

List of Post Offices in Vidisha District (as on 31st December 1969).

Sr. No.	Name	Type of Office	Whether telegraph and telephone facilities also exist.
1	2	3	4
	SIRONJ.	C. S. O. (Branch Office)	T. O., P. C. O.
1.	Anandipur	"	
2.	Aligarh kotra	"	
3.	Bamora	"	
4.	Banskheri Aspal	"	
5.	Bhouria	"	
6.	Chatoli	"	
7.	Dehri	"	
8.	Dipnakhera	"	
9.	Gareth	"	
10.	Imlani	"	
11.	Jhandura	"	
12.	Lateri	"	T. O.
13.	Mahoti	"	
14.	Mugal Sarai	"	
15.	Muraria	"	
16.	Murwas	"	
17.	Russalliduma	"	
18.	Rusalli Sahu	"	
19.	Unarsi Kalan	"	
20.	Tall	"	
21.	Unarsi Khurd	"	
	BASODA	C. S. O. (Branch Office)	T. O., P. C. O.
1.	Agra Barkhera	"	
2.	Bareth	"	
3.	Gulabganj	"	
4.	Khuder	"	
5.	Kulhar	"	
6.	Masudpur	"	
7.	Pabai	"	
8.	Pethari	"	
9.	Piklone	C. S. O.	T. O., P. C. O.
10.	Vildhana	"	
11.	Salpadahat	"	
12.	Udaipur	"	

Contd.....

1	2	3	4
	VIDISHA.	C. S. O. (Branch Office)	T. O., P. C. O.
1.	Ahmadpur	"	
2.	Atari Khajeda	"	
3.	Bardha	"	
4.	Barro	"	
5.	Bichhiya	"	
6.	Deokhajuri	"	
7.	Gadia	"	
8.	Gyaraspur	"	
9.	Hydergarh Basoda	"	
10.	Johar	"	
11.	Kheri	"	
12.	Lashkarpur	"	
13.	Nateran	"	
14.	Naulas	"	
15.	Mohammedgarh	"	
16.	Pipaldhar	"	
17.	Pipalkhera	"	
18.	Seli	"	
19.	Shamshabad	"	
20.	Sirnoti	"	
21.	Thar	"	
22.	Tenda	"	
	Vidisha Mandi	C. S. O	T. O., P. C. O.
	(S. C. O.)		
	Kurwai	"	
	Barwai	"	
	Bhaurasa.	"	

T. O.—Telegraph Office, P. C. O.—Public Call Office,

C. S. O.—Combined Sub-Office

(Source :- Superintendent, Post Offices, Bhopal.)

APPENDIX-B-V

Conversion Tables

WEIGHTS

TABLE

10 milligrams (mg)	= 1 centigram
10 centigrams	= 1 decigram
10 decigrams	= 1 gram (1 g = 1,000 mg)
10 grams	= 1 dekagram
10 dekagrams	= 1 hectogram
10 hectograms	= 1 kilogram (1 kg = 1,000 g)
10 kilograms	= 1 myriagram
10 myriagrams	= 1 quintal
10 quintals	= 1 metric tonne

(1 tonne = 1,000 kg)

From old units to new units :

1 tola	= 11.66 grams
1 chhatak	= 58.32 grams
1 seer	= 933.10 grams
1 maund	= 37.32 kg.
1 grain	= 0.0648 gram
1 ounce	= 28.35 grams
1 pound	{ = 453.59 grams
	{ = .45359 kg.
1 quarter	= 12.706 kg.
1 hundredweight	= 50.80 kg.
1 ton	= 1,016.05 kg.

From new units to old units :

1 gram	{ = 0.085735 tola
	{ = 15.4324 grams
	{ = 0.0352740 ounce
1 kilogram	{ = 1.07169 seer
	{ = 2.20462 lbs.
1 quintal	{ = 2.67923 maunds
	{ = 220.46 lbs.
1 metric tonne	{ = 26.7923 maunds
	{ = 0.9842 ton

II LENGTH**TABLE**

10 millimetres (mm)	=1 centimetre (cm)
10 centimetres	=1 decimetre
10 decimetres	=1 metre (1 m=100 cms=1,000mm)
10 metres	=1 dekametre
10 dekametres	=1 hectometre
10 hectometres	=1 kilometre (1 km=1,000m)

From old units to new units :

1 inch	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} =2.54 \text{ cms.} \\ =25.4 \text{ mms.} \\ =0.0254 \text{ m.} \end{array} \right.$
1 foot	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} =30.48 \text{ cms.} \\ =0.3048 \text{ m.} \end{array} \right.$
1 yard	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} =91.44 \text{ cms.} \\ =0.9144 \text{ m.} \end{array} \right.$
1 furlong	=201.168 m.
1 mile	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} =1.609344 \text{ km.} \\ =1609.344 \text{ m.} \end{array} \right.$
1 chain	=20.1168 m.

From new units to old units :

1 mm.	=0.0394 inch
1 cm.	=0.393701 inch
1 decimetre	=3.937 inch
1 m.	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} =1.09361 \text{ yds.} \\ =3.28084 \text{ feet} \\ =39.3701 \text{ inches} \\ =0.0497097 \text{ chain} \\ =0.00497097 \text{ furlong} \end{array} \right.$
1 hectometre	=0.062173 mile
1 kilometre (km)	=0.62137 mile

III CAPACITY**TABLE**

10 millilitres (ml)	=1 centilitre
10 centilitres	=1 decilitre
10 decilitres	=1 litre (1 L=1,000ml.)
10 litres (L)	=1 dekalitre
10 dekalitres	=1 hectolitre
10 hectolitres	=1 kilolitre

From old units to new units :

1 ounce	= 28 ml (to the nearest ml.)
1 gill	= 142 ml. (—do—)
1 pint	{ = 568 ml. (—do—) = 0.56825 L
	= 1 litre and 136 ml. (—do—)
1 quart	= 1.13649 L
1 gallon	= 4.54596 L
1 liquid seer	= 940 ml. (to the nearest 10 ml)

From new units to old units:

1 litre	= 1.75980 pints
	= 0.87990 quart
	= 0.219975 gallon
	= 1.1 liquid seer—(Approx.)
	= 35 liquid ounces (—do—)
	= 1000.028 cubic centimetres
	= 85.735 tolas of pure water
	= 61.025 cubic inches
	= 1.000028 cubic decimetres
kilolitre	= 1.000028 cubic metres

IV. VOLUME

1000 cubic millimetres	= 1 cubic centimetre
1000 cubic centimetres	= 1 cubic decimetre
1000 cubic decimetres	= 1 cubic metre

From old units to new units.

1 cubic inch	= 16.3871 cubic centimetres
1 cubic foot	{ = 28.3168 cubic decimetres = 28.316 litres
1 cubic yard	= 0.76455 cubic metre
1 gallon	{ = 0.00454609 cubic metre = 4.5496 litres = 4.54609 cubic decimetres
1 ounce	= 28.4132 cubic centimetres
1 gill	= 142.066 cubic centimetres
1 pint	{ = 568.2440 cubic centimetres = 0.5825 litre
1 quart	= 1.1365 litres
1 litre	{ = 1000.028 cubic centimetres = 1.000028 cubic decimetres

From new units to old units :

1 cubic centimetre	{	=0.061024 cubic inch
		=0.0070390 gill
		=0.0351949 ounce
1 cubic decimetre	{	=0.0353147 cubic foot
		=0.219969 gallon
		=0.99997 litre
1 cubic metre	{	=35.315 cubic foot
		=1.30795 cubic yard
		=219.969 gallon
		=0.99997 kilolitre

V. AREA**TABLE**

100 sq mm.	=1 sq. cm.
100 sq cm.	=1 sq. decimetre
100 sq decimetres	=1 sq. metre (1 sq. m.=10,000 sq. cm.)
100 sq. metres	=1 are or 1 sq. dekametre
100 ares	=1 hectare or 1 sq. hectometre
	(1 hectare (ha)=10,000 sq. m.)
100 hectares	=1 sq. kilometre

From old units to new units :

1 sq. inch	{	=6.4516 sq. cm.
		=0.00064516 sq. m.
1 sq. foot	{	=929.03 sq. cm.
		=0.092903 sq. m.
		=9.2903 sq. decimetre
1 sq. yard	{	=0.83613 sq. metre
		=0.0083613 are
1 cent		=40.4686 sq. metres
1 sq. chain		=404.686 sq. metres
1 acre (4840 sq. Yds. or 10 sq. chains)	{	=0.404686 hectare
		=40.4686 ares
1 sq. mile (640 acres)	{	=258.999 hectares
		=2.58999 sq. kilometres

From new units to old units :

1 sq. cm.	=0.155000 sq. inch
1 sq. metre	{ =1550.00 sq. inch =10.7639 sq. foot =1.19599 sq. yard
1 are	{ =119.599 sq. yard =0.0247105 acres
1 hectare	=2.47105 acres
1 sq. kilometre	=0.386101 sq. mile



सत्यमेव जयते

APPENDIX—B—VI

List of Freedom Fighters

Sl. No.	Name of the Freedom Fighters	Residence
1	2	3
1.	Shri Khusilal S/o Ram Chandra, Brahmin	Vidisha
2.	Shri Babu Ganesh S/o Ganesh Ram Dube	"
3.	Shri Raghubir Charan S/o Kanhaiyalal Sharma	"
4.	Shri Kama! Singh S/o Mool Chand Thakur	"
5.	Shri Sakharam Ghanshyam Rao Nigudkar	"
6.	Shri Dhanraj S/o Agyaram Maheshwari	"
7.	Shri Balwant Singh S/o Mattu Singh Thakur	"
8.	Shri Ayodhya Prasad S/o Devi Shankar Sharma	"
9.	Shri Babulal S/o Ram Narayan Gupta	"
10.	Shri Sunnulal S/o Khuman Singh	"
11.	Shri Bachhulal S/o Dalchand, Tailor	"
12.	Shri Dhanna Lal S/o Roop Chand Jain	"
13.	Shri Mangilal S/o Meghraj Sharma	"
14.	Shri Kamta Prasad S/o Shyam Lal Saxena	"
15.	Shri Dattatreya S/o Shridhar Rao Datar	"
16.	Shri Krishnanand S/o Chhuttulal	"
17.	Shri Dattatreya S/o Krishna Rao Sarvate	"
18.	Smt. Pramila W/o Dattatreya Krishna Sarvate	"
19.	Shri Rajmal S/o Takhtmal Jachhori	"
20.	Shri Venkatesh S/o Narayan Shevde	"
21.	Shri Surya Prakash S/o Chhaganmal Gandhi (Public Relations Officer)	Shahdol
22.	Shri Krishan Chand S/o Parmanand Vaishya	Gulabganj
23.	Shri Babulal S/o Shankar Lal Sharma (Principal, H. S. School)	Deekan (Neemuch)
24.	Shri Ram Sahay S/o Lalta Prasad	Vidisha
25.	Shri Bhabut Singh S/o Kishan Singh Mohta	"
26.	Shri Damodar S/o Dattatreya Shole	"
27.	Shri Dr. Jamuna Prasad S/o Seho Lal Mukhraiya	"
28.	Smt. Laxmi Bai w/o Babulal Gupta	"
29.	Shri Mishrilal S/o Jagannath Prasad Agnihotri	"
30.	Shri Barelal S/o Mansaram Sikarwar	"
31.	Shri Chhotelal S/o Ranjeet Prasad Jha	"
32.	Smt. Madan Devi Nawal	Khachrod
33.	Smt. Jamma Devi W/o Devkishan Rathi	Vidisha
34.	Shri Ganesh Ram S/o Anandilal	"
35.	Shri S. S. Dhillan (Ex-Company Commandant)	"
36.	Shri Ram Singh S/o Roop Singh Thakur	Village Masudpur
37.	Shri Laxmi Narayan S/o Durga Prasad, Namdeo	Basoda
38.	Shri Ram Prasad S/o Nand Kishore Tiwari	"
39.	Shri Brijbihari Lal S/o Pannalal Sharma	Kurwai
40.	Shri Krishna Gopalji Swarnakar	Village—Sairwasa
41.	Shri Damroolal S/o Hajarilal Bhartiya	Village—Pathari

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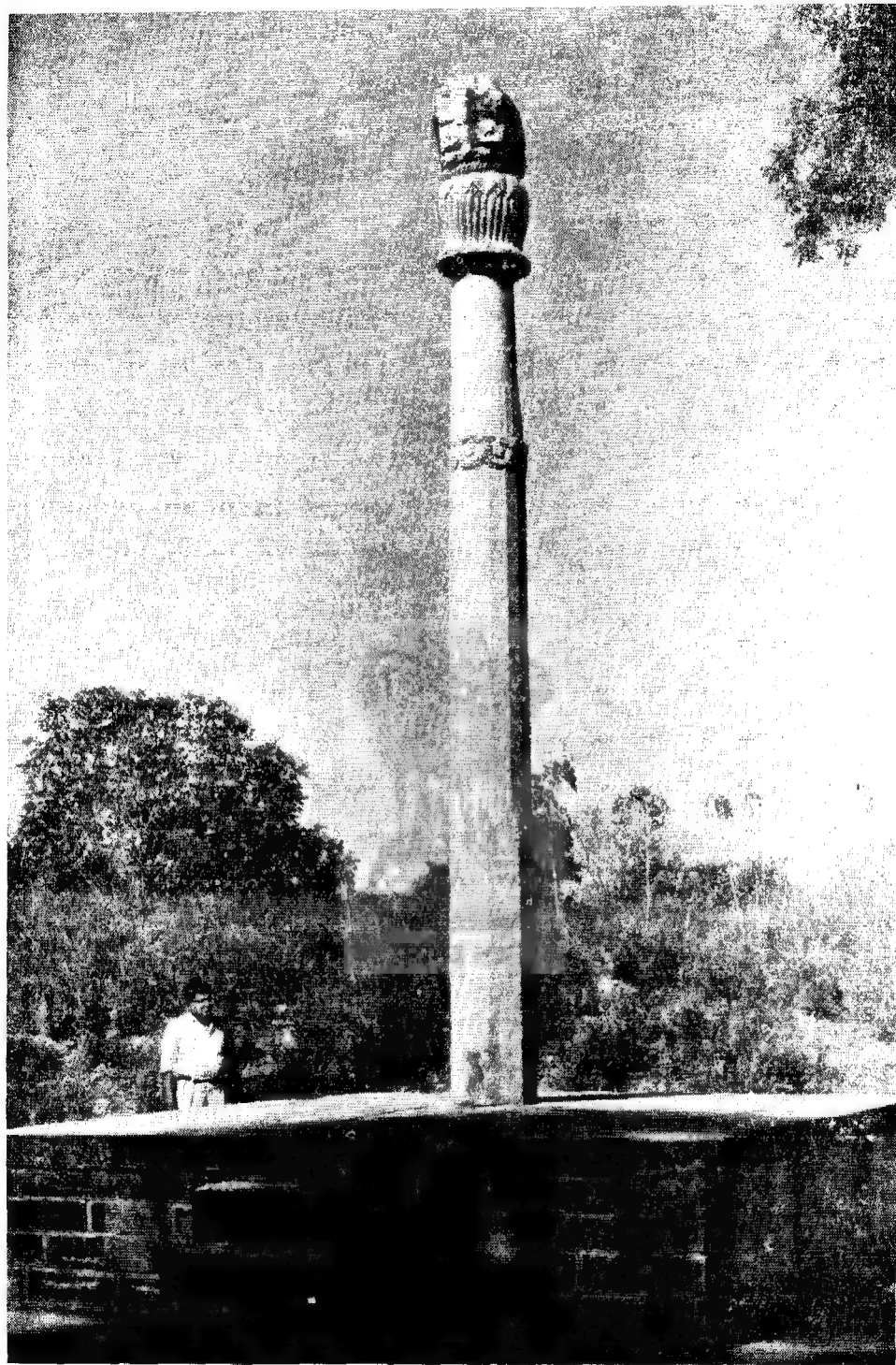
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Heliodoros Pillar, Besnagar.

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



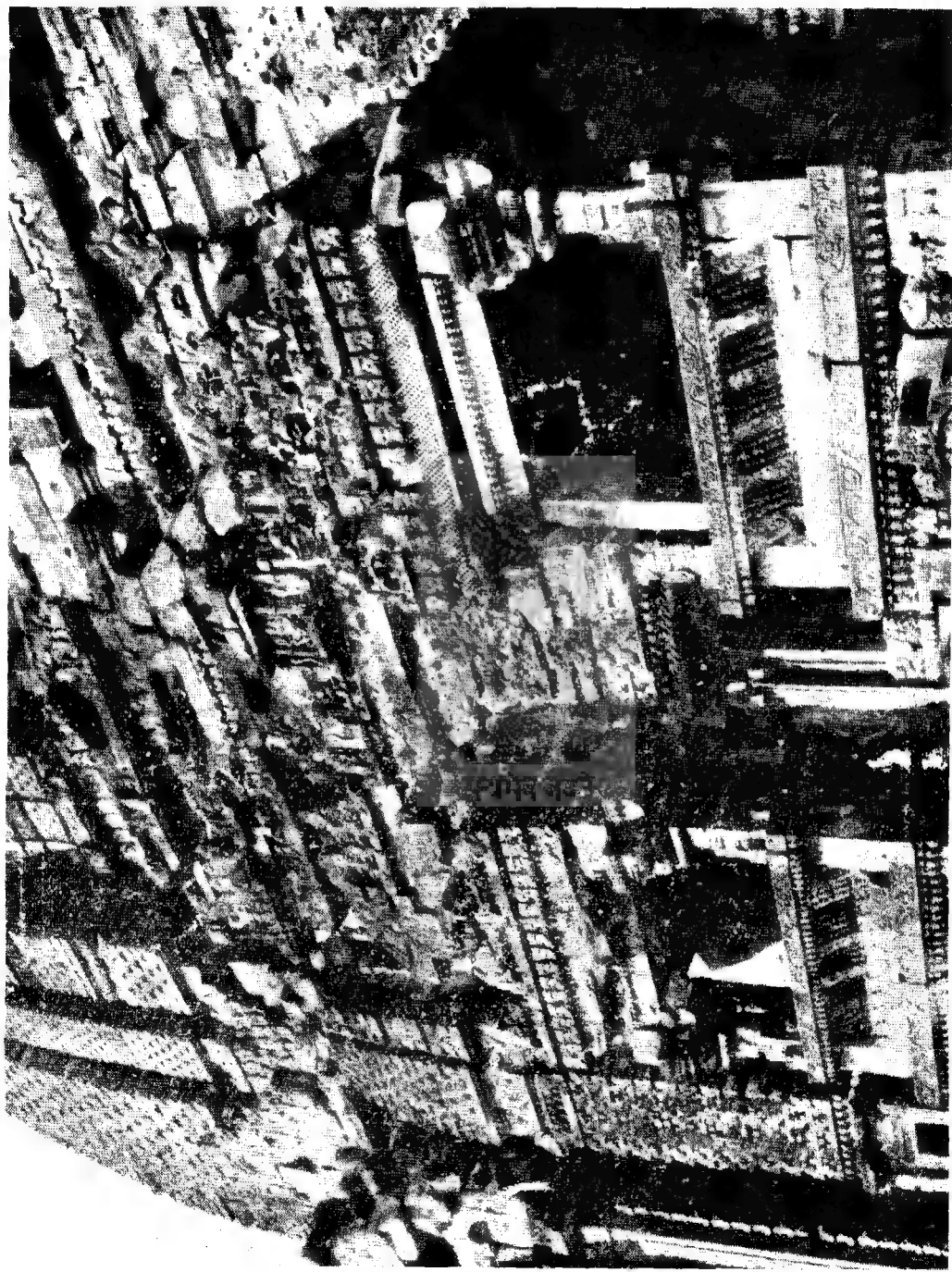
Elliptical Temple of Vishnu (Near Heliodoros Pillar), Besnagar.

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



Head of Vishnu, Besnagar.

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



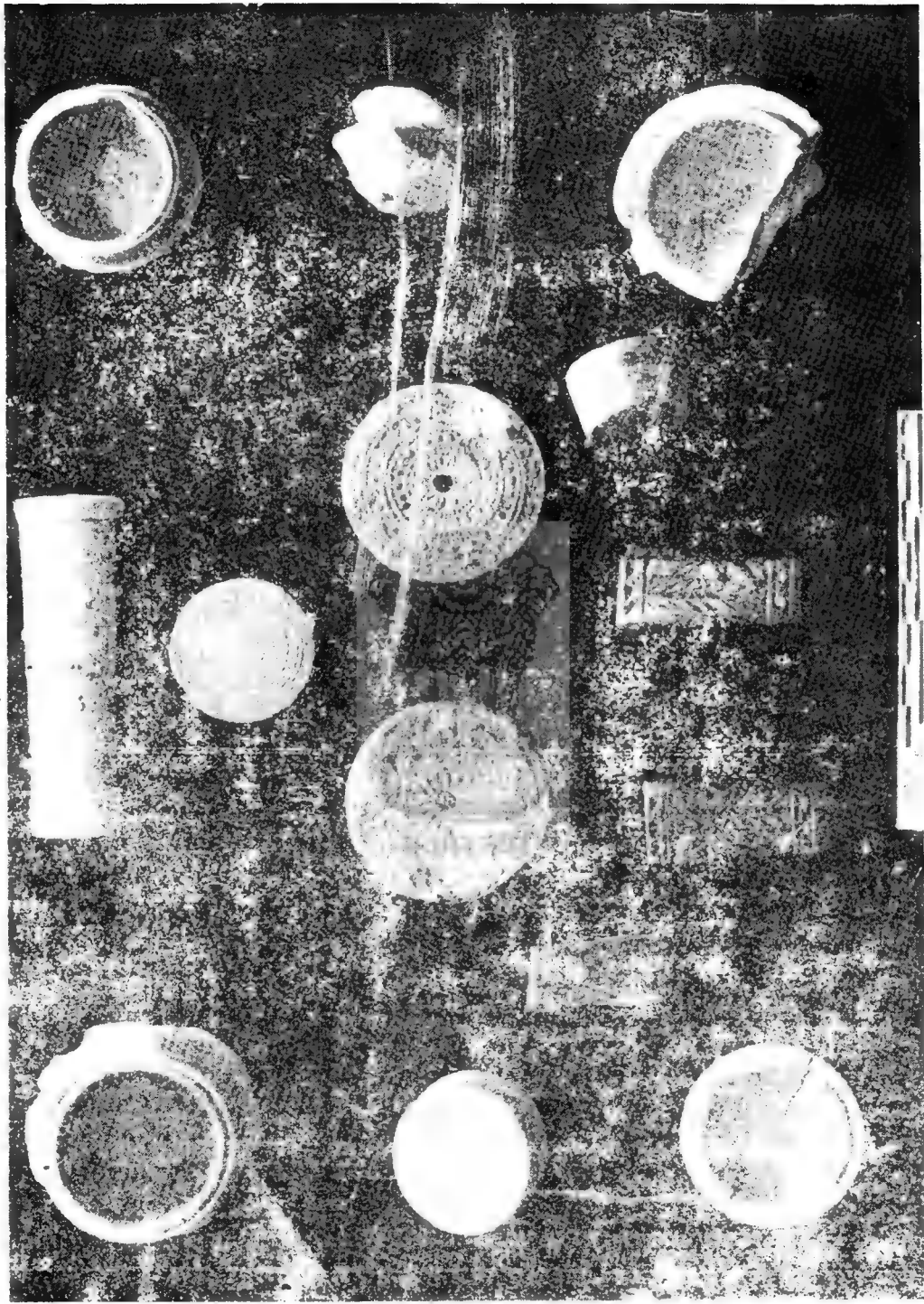
Close up view, Maladevi Temple, Gyaspur



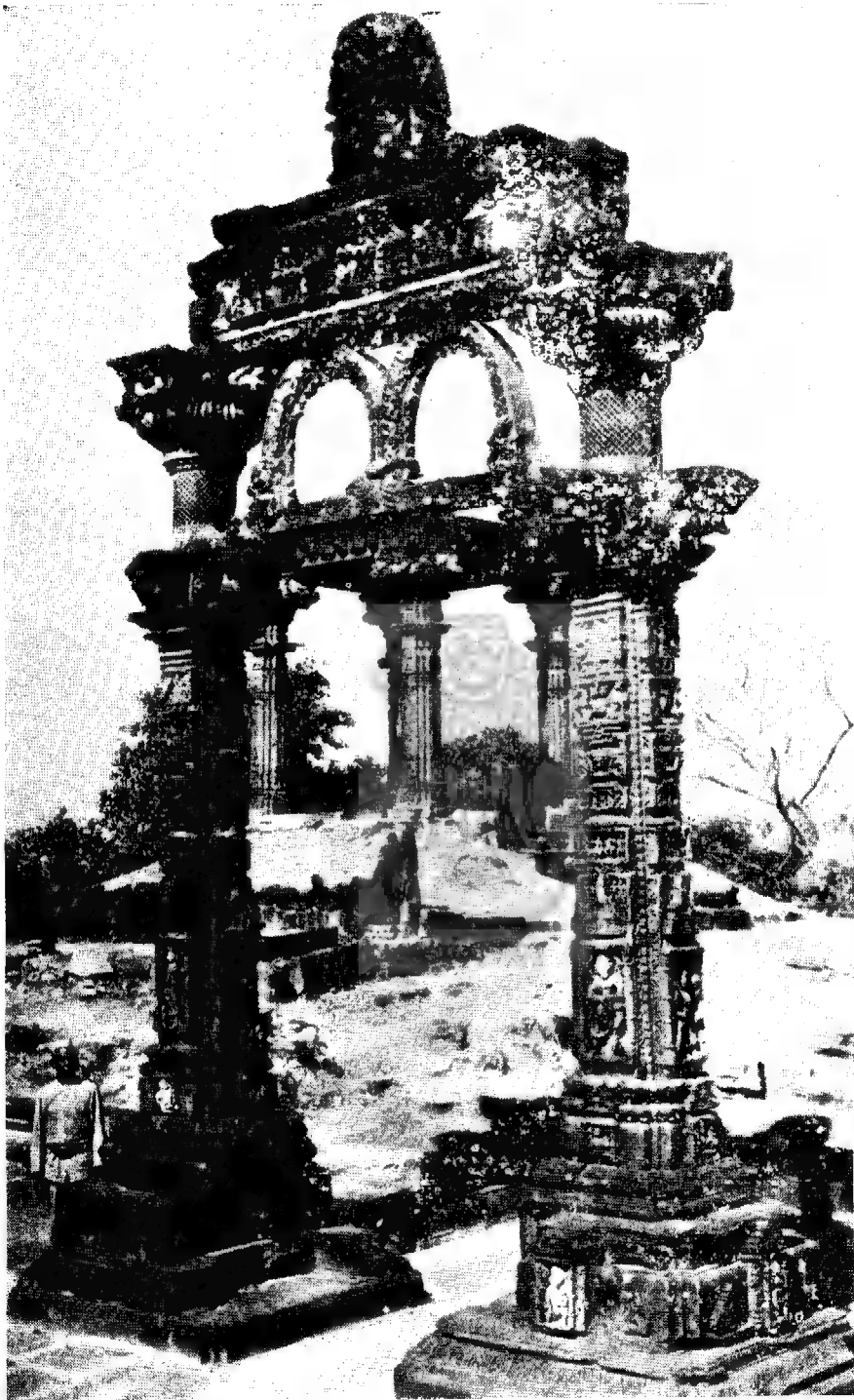


Chalcolithic Pottery, Besnagar Excavations

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)

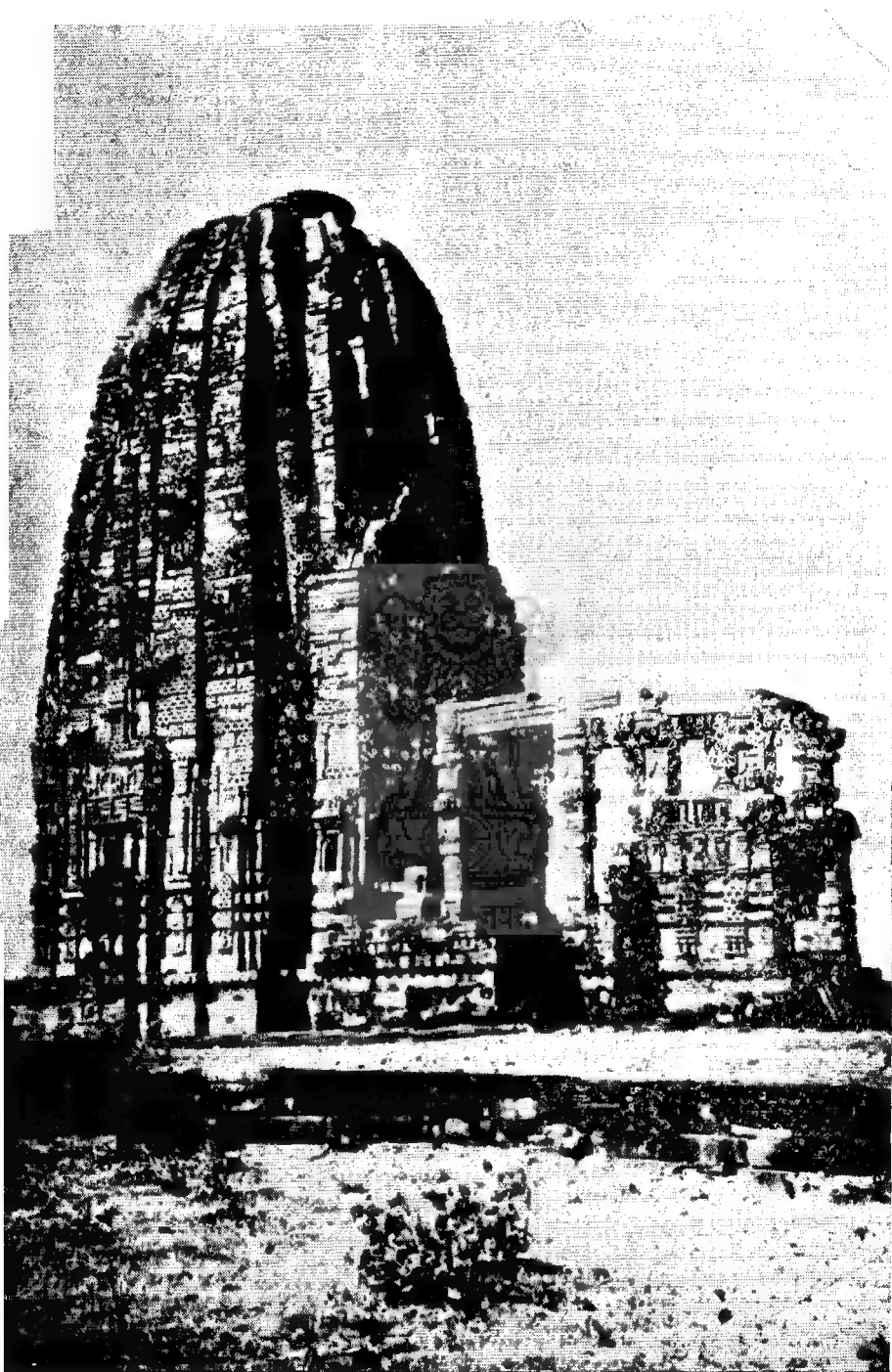


Minor antiquities (Decorated ivory comb, copper ear-lobes, Soapstone caskets etc).
3rd Cen B C - 2nd Cen A. D., Besnagar Excavations.



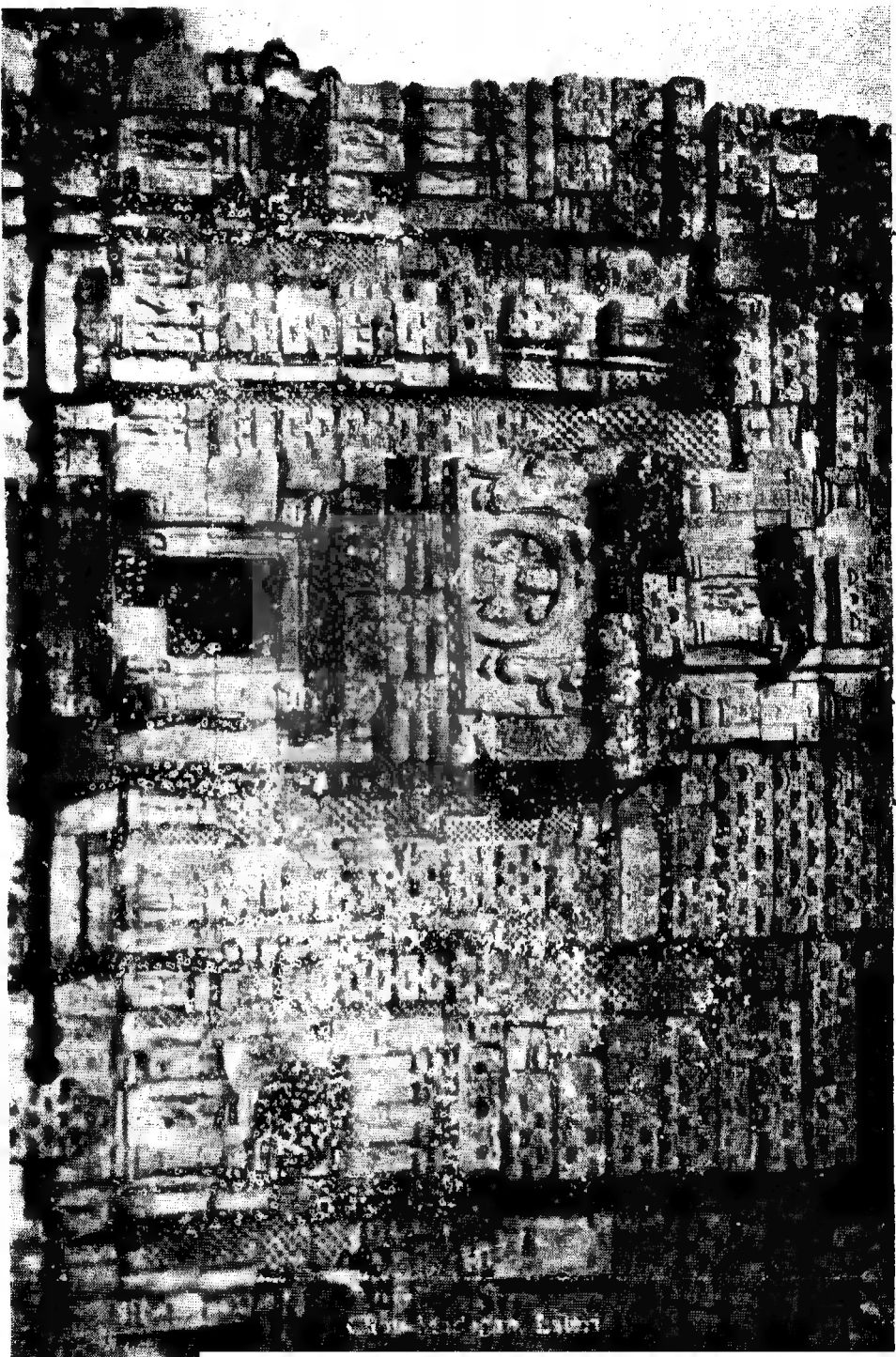
Hindola Toran, Gyaraspur

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



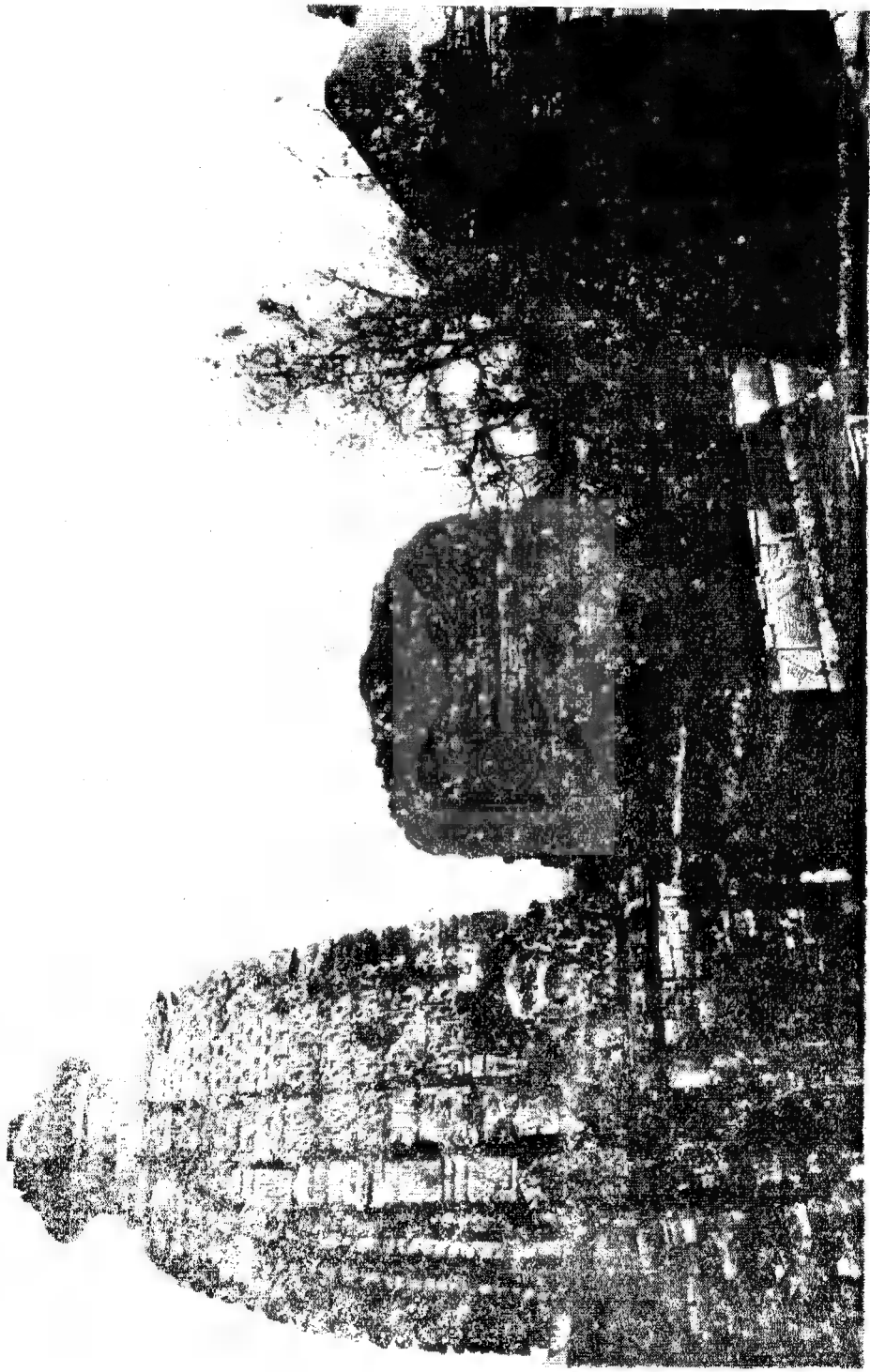
Gadarmal Temple (General view), Badoh Pathari

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



Details of Gadarmal Temple, Badon Pathari.

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)

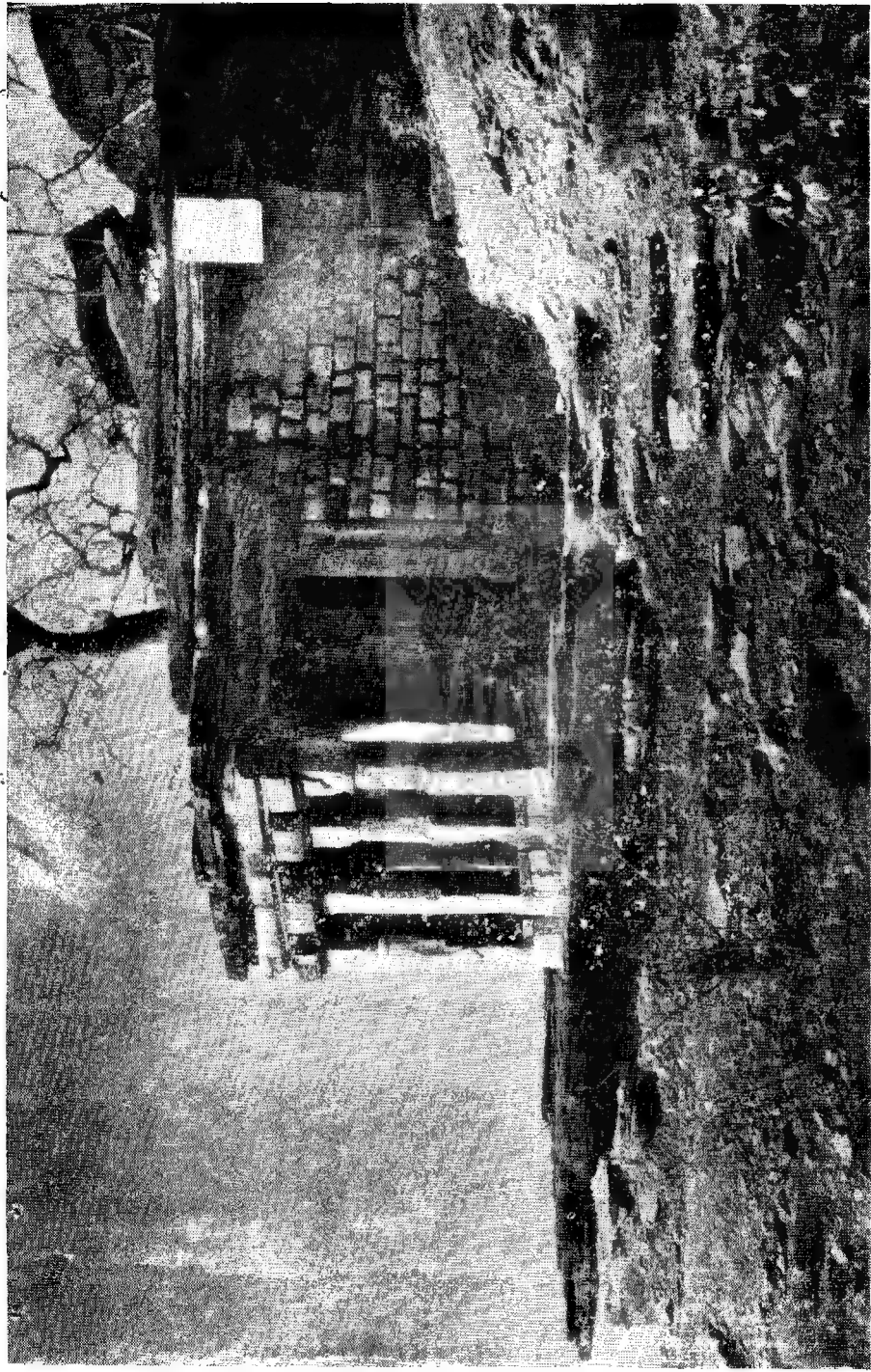


Jain Temple, Badoh Pathari



Varaha, Udayagiri

(Courtesy : Archaeological Survey of India)



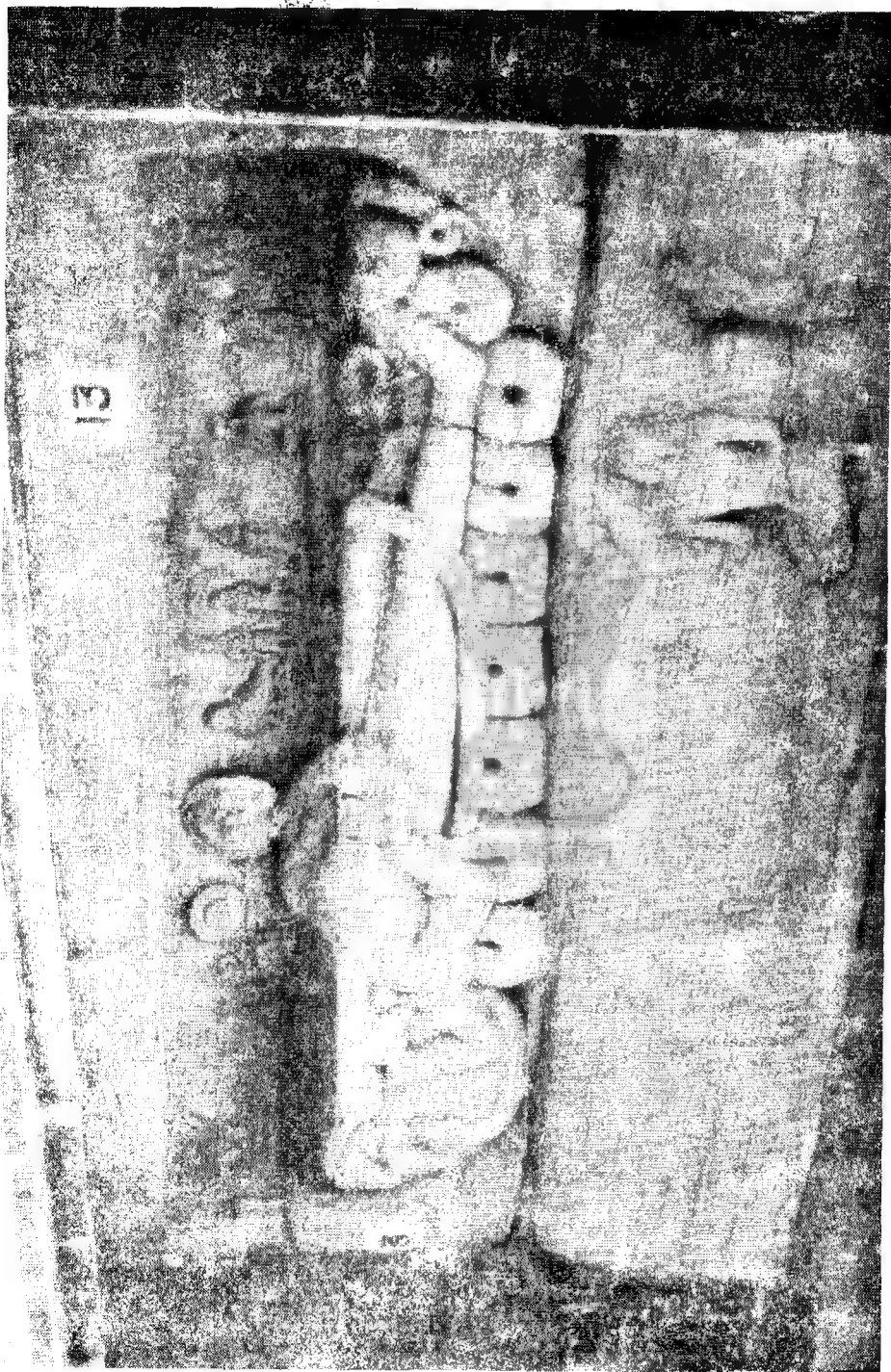
Gupta Temple, Cave No. 1, Udayagiri.



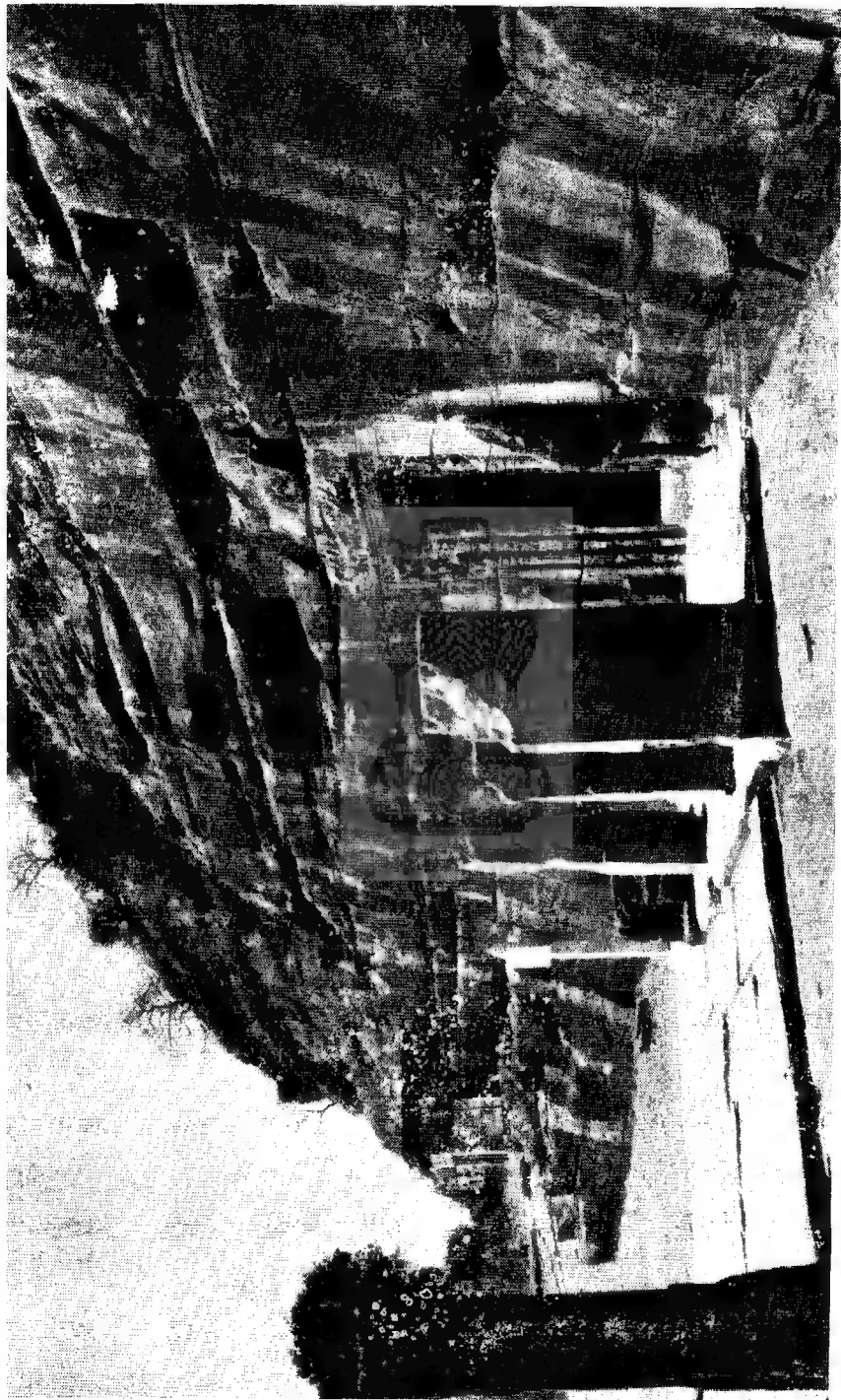
Sheshasayi Vishnu, Cave No. 13, Udayagiri.



General View of Cave No. 6, Udayagiri



Sheshasayi Vishnu, Cave No. 13, Udayagiri.



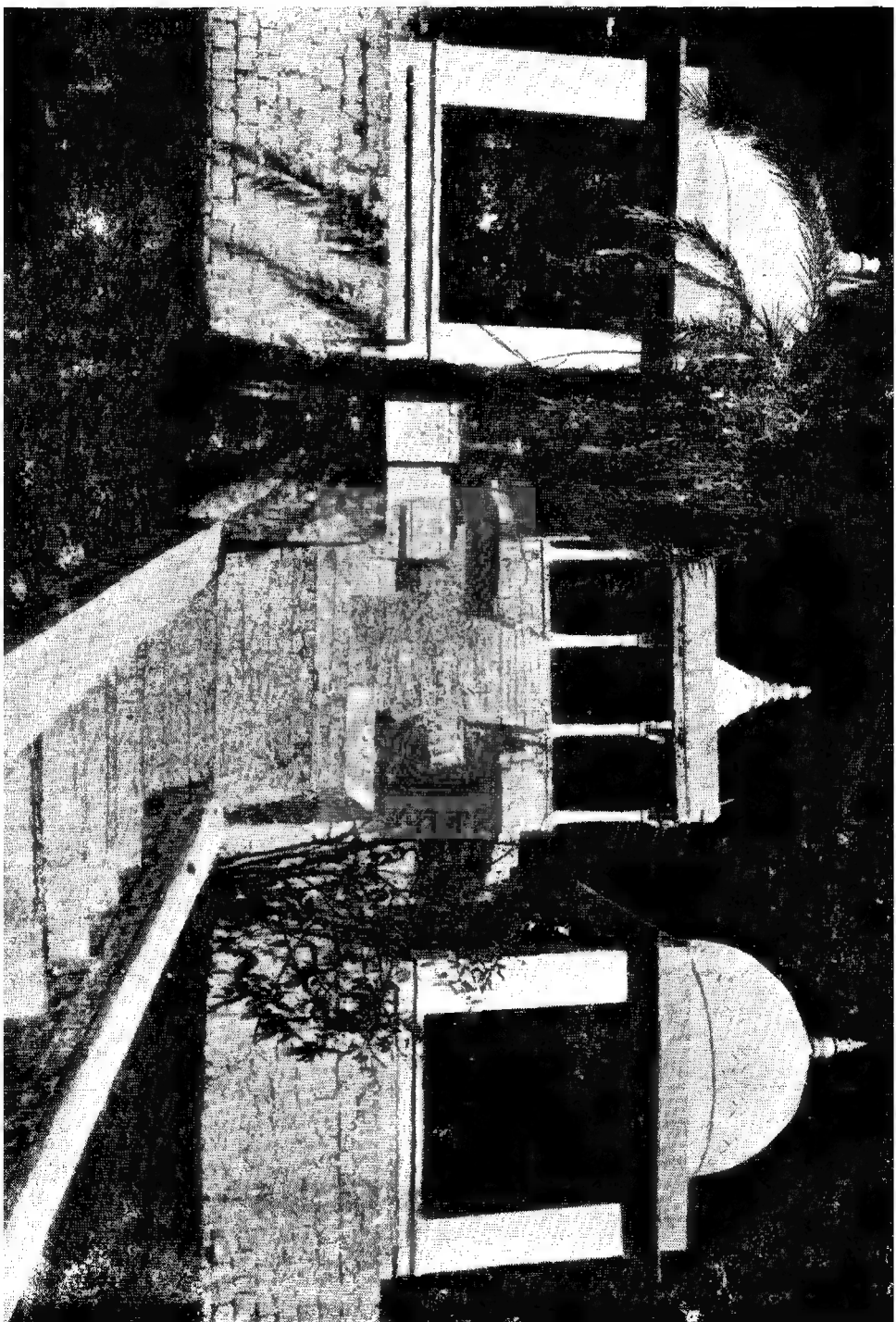
General View of Cave No. 19 (*Amrit-Manthana Gupha*), Udayagiri



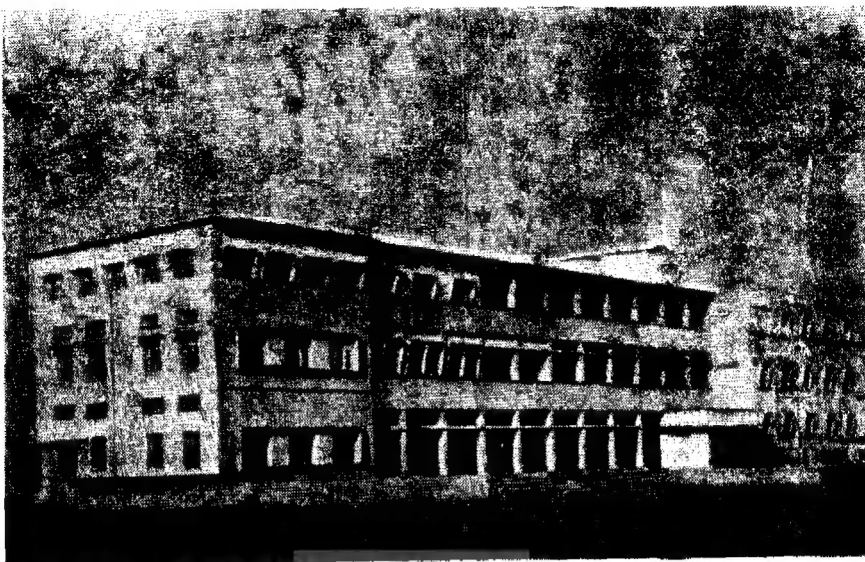
Jamdagn Rishi Ashram, Badi Madagan, Lateri



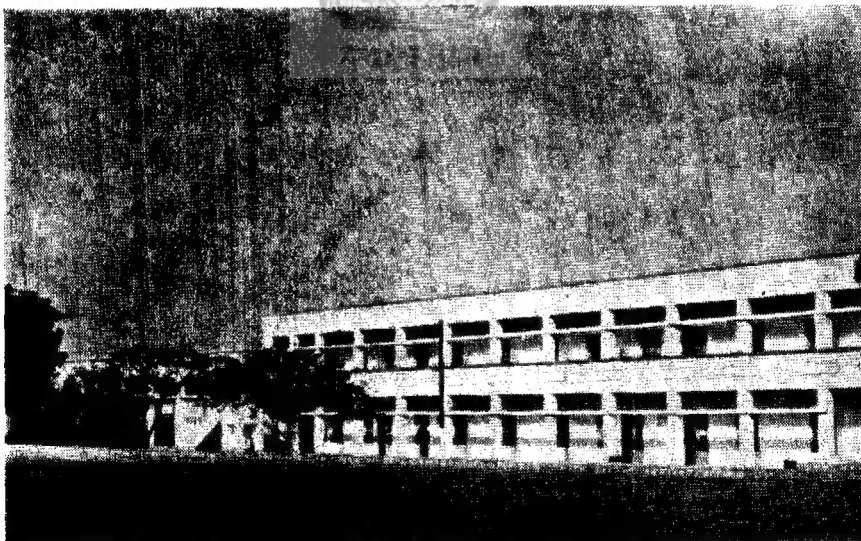
Choti Madagan, Lateri



Neelkantheshwar Temple, Sironi.



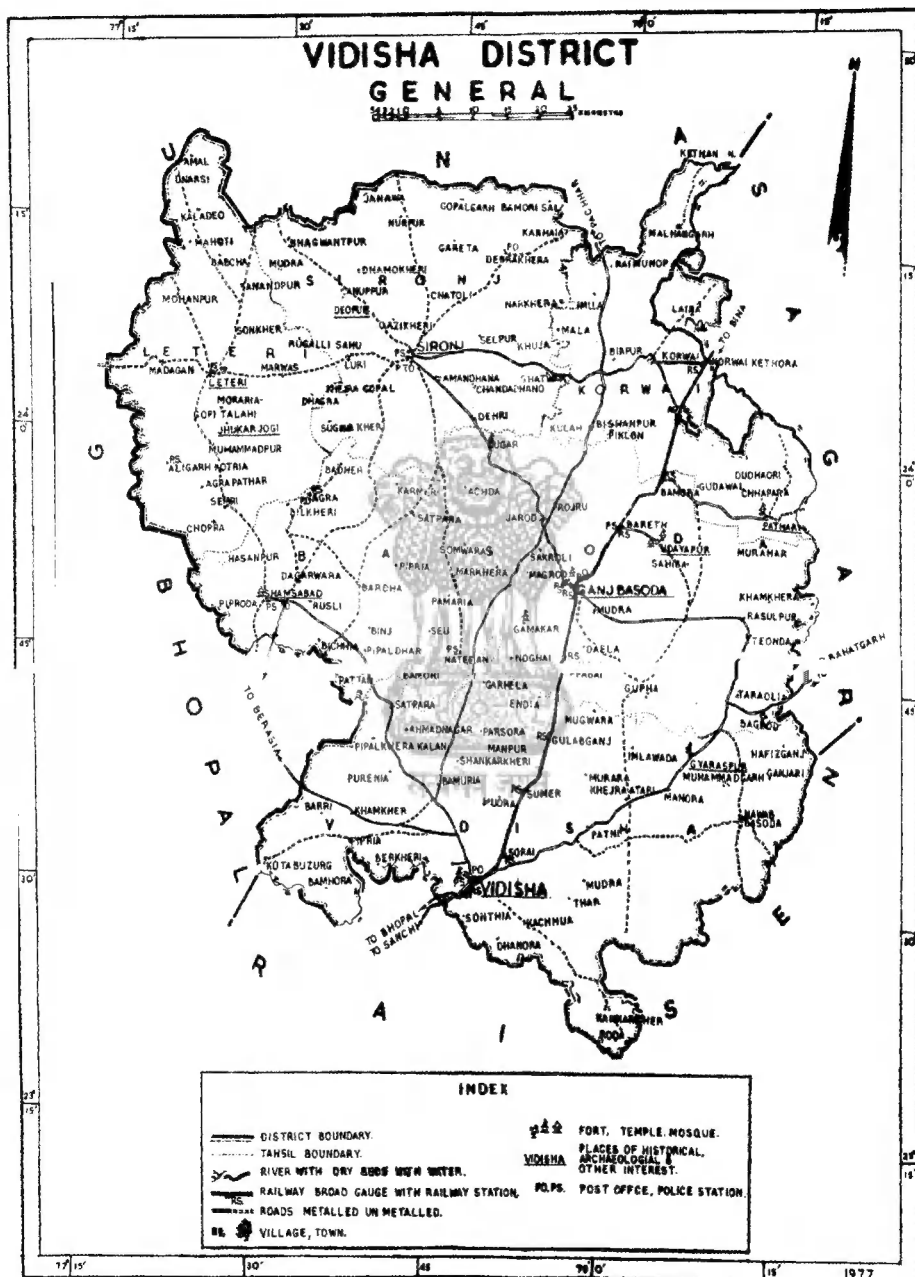
S. S. L. Jain College Main Building, Vidisha



Postgraduate Block of S. S. L. Jain College, Vidisha

ERRATA

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
4	1	5	fanges	ranges
9	4	1	cacareous	calcareous
15	5	4	1939	1929
17	3	2	Exancolinus	Francolinus
20	1	3	best	west
34	Footnote		Raghubir Singh	Raghubir Sinh
61	Table Col. 6,	1	4,472	14,472
76	5	1-2	finger-ngs	finger-rings
82	3	10	4.91	491
85	Table Col.	2	Main Canal	Main Canal 1
	Col.	3	1	
			7	7
	Col.	9	2,150	2,050
90	3	4	has grown	,however, in this year had grown
90	3	6	4.91	49.1
103	Table Col.	heading	(Qtls)	(Tonnes)
	"	"	(Kg)	(Qtls)
	" Last Col.	"	4	50
		"	50	4
111	Footnote	5	p. 21	p. 24
122	2	13-14	employees unions	employees. Unions
126	1	10	land and mortgage	and land mortgage
129	2	9	reason	season
160	2	3	Malgarh	Malhargarh
170	1	last	7,294.45	7,294.45
172	1	4	065	0.65
173	1	1	1 11	1.11
186	4	3	Thanednar	Thanedar
193	3	8	1810	1880
199	3	1	Kaboodliyat	Kabooliyat
210	3	S. No. 4	Bhilsa	Kurwai
		S. No. 5	Bhilsa	Basoda
228	4	last	1952-71	1952-53 to 1973-74
264	1	2	ultylively	respectively
270	3	6	literay	literary
304	3	8	Sironi	Sironj
307	1	8	uency	Constituency
313	1	4	38	3.8
316	2	1	Quartzilic	Quartzite
321	6	4	excavatings	excavations
324	3	4	remnats	remnants
326	2	1 and 4	gnesis	gneiss
330	2	2	tis	its
331	2	4	ond	and



77° 15' 30' 45' 78° 0' 15'

VIDISHA DISTRICT PHYSICAL

243 210 5 10 15 20 25 KILOMETRES
SCALE



INDEX

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| — DISTRICT BOUNDARY. | — ROAD, METALLED, UN-METALLED. |
| TALUQA BOUNDARY. | — RAILWAY LINE, BROAD GAUGE WITH RAILWAY STATION. |
| — RIVER WITH DRY BEDS WITH WATER. | — VILLAGE, TOWN. |
| — TANKS WITH DRY BEDS WITH WATER. | |
| — RESERVOIR. | |

77° 15'

30'

45'

78° 0'

15'

1977